

BAY AREA REPORTER

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1528 15TH STREET, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94103

VOL. XII NO. 51 DECEMBER 23, 1982



ACLU Protests Court Action

Coors Seeks Gay Group's Members List, Records

by George Mendenhall

"This is a fishing expedition into the records of Solidarity. It has the effect of intimidating people," attorney Margaret Crosby said this week about a local court attempt by the Coors Company to obtain the records and names of members of the Gay group. Chief U.S. Magistrate Owen Woodruff has ruled in a preliminary "discovery" hearing that Coors is entitled to the materials. The full U.S. District Court hearing on the issue will be here on January 19.

Crosby, staff attorney for the American Civil Liberties Union, states that the broad search by a corporation into the files of a small political action group is a violation of privacy and freedom of expression under the U.S. Constitution. The ACLU is representing the group with an assist from an ACLU volunteer attorney, Arthur Brunwasser.

Coors seeks to obtain Solidarity club minutes, financial reports, sources of funding, names of officers and active members, names of those active in the continuing boycott of Coors beer in the Gay community, and communications between Gay activist Howard Wallace and Solidarity. "Considering the historic oppression of Gay people," Crosby urges, "it is essential that such records remain private. Coors would even be obtaining the names of people not involved in any boycott effort."

ACCUSATIONS

The company contends that Wallace, Solidarity, and David Sickler, a national

AFL-CIO official, violated the Sherman Antitrust Act by conspiring to restrain trade and reduce competition in the brewing industry. It is suing to restrain the parties from participating in the boycott and claims damages in excess of \$145,000.

Wallace, Northern California Coors Boycott director, is represented separately by AFL-CIO attorneys. He is the center of the controversy over the boycott lawsuit. Coors claims that Wallace threatened violence if KQED-TV did not cancel a special "Coors Day" during its 1981 annual auction. Two KQED-TV officials have joined Wallace in recent court depositions denying the charge. Wallace is one of the founders of Solidarity, a group noted for its direct-action demonstrations for civil rights causes.

Solidarity's major involvement in the lawsuit stems from a flyer that Wallace distributed which urged the public to telephone KQED-TV, to convince it to cancel Coors

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Season's Greetings

KS Diagnosis, Takes Life

by Paul Lorch

A 29-year old Haight-Ashbury man exercised a grim option on learning he was a KS victim.

He hanged himself in Golden Gate Park Thursday, December 16, at 1:30 a.m.

Last Wednesday morning Richard Brian Herbaugh, 29, was told by his physician that the biopsy taken of a lesion in Herbaugh's mouth had

proved positive. Yes, he had Kaposi's sarcoma. Herbaugh told no one. The next evening he visited his friend Allen Young who lived across the

street from him on Clayton Street

Young, a friend of Herbaugh's for a year and a half, said they talked about it and cried about it. Herbaugh smoked a few joints. "He was an impenetrable person," said Young. "Richard had few friends; he was a loner."

Young suspected Herbaugh knew something was amiss for some time. He had been having trouble shaking a series of simple staph infections that broke out on various parts of his body.

Young had noticed that his friend Richard had been avoiding physical contact with him for weeks. He even denied Young casual affection, and unsuspecting Young began to conclude that Richard was withdrawing from the friendship.

(Continued on Page 15)

Gays Share in Oroville Protest

by Konstantin Berlandt

One young man among the spectators who lined the sidewalk wore an AC/DC T-shirt. Another, a youth with long brown hair rocking out to a portable radio in front of the Harley-Davidson store, had inscribed red letters on the back of his black T-shirt, "To Hell with Israel."

Oroville — north of Marysville, south of Paradise, and just a few minutes from the Sierra foothills, is also, according to Doug Mallory, a Gay citizen of the town, some 12-18 minutes from the rush of water if the dam above the town were ever to break, say in an earthquake. He complains that Dam directors refuse to install even a warning siren for the town's citizens to run to higher ground in an emergency.

"The Oroville Dam represents a lot of what's wrong with the community economy," Mallory says. The water from the dam that sits ominously above this Central Valley collection of shopping centers and mobile homes belongs to Los Angeles, he calls

"a cancer . . . that can't support itself." So for Orovillians, there may be "water all around but not a drop to drink."

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Richard Brian Herbaugh, 29, hanged himself after learning he had KS. (Photo: Rink)

Christmas on Polk Street

by Mike Hippler



Despite the increasing number of cynics each year, there are many of us who still cherish the holiday season and for whom Christmas holds many fond memories. I remember the year I got my first Jenny doll, the year of the ice storm when my sisters and I almost sledded over a fallen power line, and the years we hiked through the forest to find our own tree. I remember the year my father opened up yet another package of golf balls and screamed, "Oh God! Not more golf balls!" driving my sister from the room in tears, for what was she about to give him? Golf balls, of course. Then there was the year some relatives didn't give us anything, and I cursed, "May their bones rot!" And the year I bought my first electric train. I was 29 that year.

Most of my Christmas memories are family oriented, and I still go back home every chance I can at Christmas. However, for many Gay people, "family" doesn't mean the same thing it used to, and Christmases aren't the traditional gathering of Mom and Pop, Sis and Bud sitting around the tree opening presents that is a standard part of American folklore. Recognizing that Gay Christmases are probably as diverse as Gay people themselves, I decided to examine one of San Francisco's first Gay neighborhoods to see just what Christmas means to some of the area's better and lesser-known denizens. This then, at least for three individuals, is Christmas on Polk Street.

Kimo Cochran, who for six years has owned Kimo's, a Gay bar on Polk St., grew up in Hawaii, so most of his Christmas memories center around the

beach. Usually he went surfing on Christmas day. "I've never spent a Christmas the way I imagine it to be," Kimo told me. "One of these days I'm going to spend it where it's cold, where there's snow. I want to spend it beside a fireplace with someone nice in a cabin somewhere — perhaps Yosemite." For ten years he spent it with a lover in San Francisco, but as the lover is now an ex-lover, Kimo says he will have to wait a while before he takes someone to dinner on Christmas day at the Ahwanee.

Because Kimo's relatives all live in Hawaii or Florida, he will spend the holiday this year as he usually does these days — in his bar. The first year he owned his place, he closed it on December 25 in order to give his employees the day off, but his regular customers objected. "This is our home, the only bar we go to," one complained, and so, since that year, Kimo has kept

his bar open, using only volunteer workers. It is usually a busy day, since so many of his customers have no place else to go. In addition, like most years, this year Kimo will stage his annual Hawaiian Christmas party on Friday, December 17, to which the public is invited. There will be Hawaiian decorations, Hawaiian Christmas music, and Hawaiian food. The only thing not Hawaiian will be the weather.

For a number of years Kimo, a former actor and nightclub performer, took part in the annual Christmas show organized by the late Ray Broshears at the Veteran's Hospital at Ft. Miley. Kimo hired the acts and performed himself, dancing with fire and knives in the traditional Polynesian style. Since Broshears' death earlier this year, however, his "legacy" has fallen to Elmer Wilhelm, Kimo told me, who hasn't

gotten the show off the ground. "Next year maybe I'll take it on myself," Kimo said. In the meantime, he'll content himself with the activities at his bar and dream of future white Christmases at Yosemite.

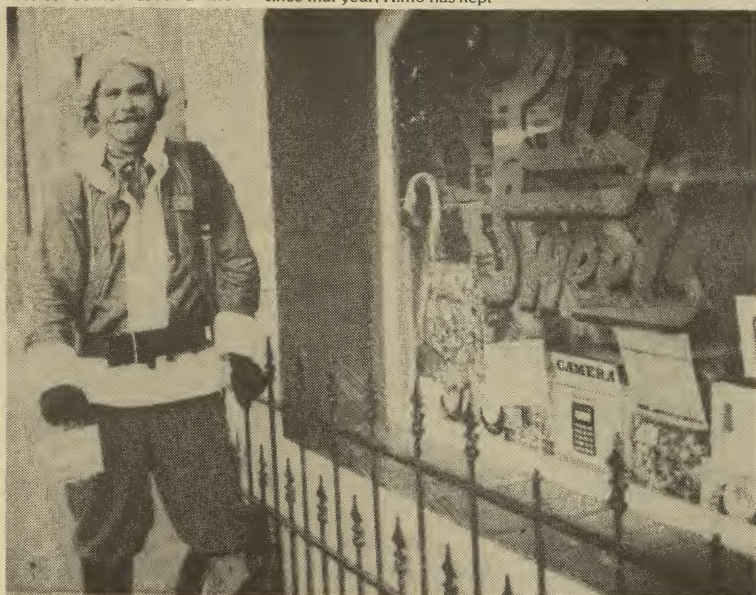
A STREET BOY

Down the street from Kimo's I met a blond, blue-eyed, 19-year-old kid named Arnold at the corner of Polk and Cedar,

spent "ballin' Sandra on the beach at Santa Cruz on Christmas Eve, 1979. I remember because I wrecked her car the next day." Although Arnold lives with his present girlfriend at her place in Daly City, she doesn't know about his trips to Polk St. Neither do his parents, who live out of town — he wouldn't say where. But as he has been coming out to the street since he was 12, spending his first five years in the Tenderloin, "until the niggers



Polk Street merchants Connie and Andy display their Christmas favorites. (Photo: Rink)



A strolling Santa minus the white beard on Polk Street. (Photo: Rink)

whose Christmas promises to be a great deal different from Kimo's. In fact, his whole life is different from Kimo's. Arnold is a hustler, although he claims that, strictly speaking, he is not. "I don't have sex with them," he assured me. "I just steal their money when I get in the car. I've got money of my own. I've got a job during the day as a forklift driver at a warehouse in Concord." In spite of the job, Arnold spends about three or four nights a week on Polk St.; however, and he admits — or claims — that he can make a couple of hundred bucks on a good night on the street — "not hustling." Somewhat incredulous, I asked him how he got money from men without doing anything for it. "You gotta know what's going on," he replied. "You gotta be around for a while."

No only is he not a hustler, Arnold says, he is also not a "fag." "I've got a girl's picture in my wallet. I go out with the girls," his favorite Christmas memory is of the time he

moved in and the cops kicked us out," both his parents and his girlfriend are used to his frequent absences.

This year Arnold plans to spend Christmas at his parents' house. "I figure I'll just get loaded, sit around the house, watch the boob tube, rip open my presents, and have the old lady over — pretty casual." Christmases are never special for Arnold, but he does have some respect for tradition. This year, for instance, he is giving his girlfriend a ring and his mother a \$3 onyx elephant. "I never get nuthin'," he told me. "So what?" So what indeed.

My conversation with Arnold ended when the cops came along and asked us, "You boys got any place to go?" We didn't reply but walked on down the street. I said, "So long, Arnold. And Merry Christmas."

"Sure," he replied, as he stationed himself at the next corner.

(Continued on next page)



Kimo at his "Windows on Polk Street" stands in front of his bar's Christmas tree. (Photo: Rink)

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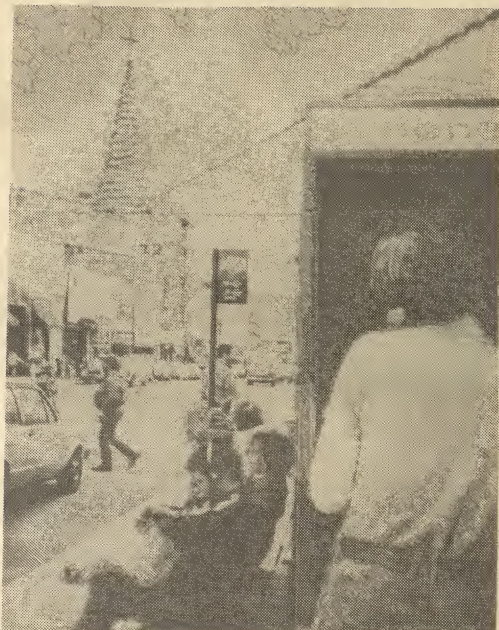
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Christmas



Youth on a tinseling Polk Street — waiting for a friend, spending time on the phone. (Photo: Rink)

(Continued from previous page)

AN OLD RESIDENT

At the New Bell Saloon Wayne Friday, the B.A.R.'s political columnist, introduced me to Teddy Hirschfield. Teddy, who would not reveal his age but would admit to being "quite a bit older than 50," is an admissions counselor at U.C. Berkeley and has lived in the Polk neighborhood ever since he moved to San Francisco 11 years ago. Because his lover will be visiting family back home in Pittsburg this year, Teddy plans to spend a quiet Christmas with friends. He may attend a party or two and will certainly drop by the New Bell, which he calls his "second home."

Teddy's favorite Christmases were the ones he spent in New York City where he grew up. "I was younger, I guess. Most of my friends were in the theater, and we always went out." He doesn't miss the snow of New York, however, and when I asked him if he had ever had a bad Christmas, he said that he couldn't remember a bad one. "I usually enjoy it," he told me above the deafening clamor of David Kelsey's organ.

When I asked him if he thought Christmas was different on Polk St. than anywhere else, Teddy pointed toward the street and said, "Some of these kids out here I feel so sorry for. They have no place to go. What I'd really love to do — but I can't because it would be disastrous — is to have a huge dinner

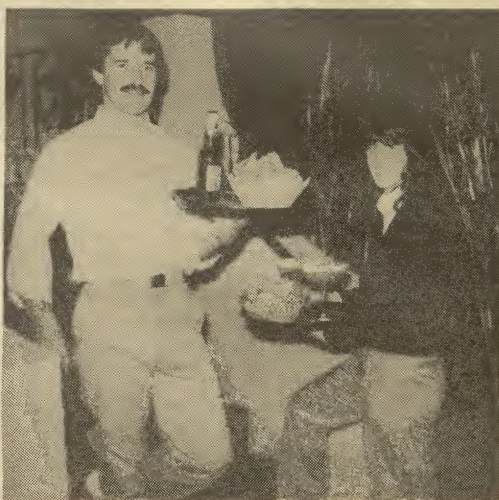
party and invite all these kids. But it can't be done. To them, everybody is a potential John, and that would not be my reason."

Does Teddy think Christmas is any different for Gay people in general, not just Polk St. residents? "It's different for some people," he said, "because they make it different. They start feeling sorry for themselves, which I think is ridiculous." Of older Gays in particular he said, "Some create their own little world. They think things aren't the way they used to be, and they won't change along with the world." Teddy, whose lover is 22 and whose friends are from 17 to 80, thinks that confining oneself to one particular age group is foolish. When he celebrates Christmas this year, it won't

be with people just like himself. It will be with a group as diverse as the crowd on Polk St., as diverse as the crowd standing around David Kelsey's organ.

Teddy and Arnold may not have a lot in common, but they do share a common bond. They both spend a great deal of time on Polk St. and can hardly fail to be aware of one another at least as passing strangers. It would be equally difficult for them to ignore the gaudy, golden Christmas tree overhanging the intersection of Polk and California. Tacky as it is, the tree is a symbol representing the focus and endeavour of a community. Earlier I spoke of my family, and Kimo talked about his friends and bar customers as his family. In its own way, the street dominated by that golden tree is yet another kind of family. Wouldn't it be nice, I thought as I left the bars and shops of Polk St. behind, if at Christmas — if at any time — all these families might come together as one?

Perhaps the nicest Christmas memory of all would be if Teddy actually gave that



Ken and Jeanne, waiters at Miranda's Restaurant on Polk Street. (Photo: Rink)

dinner or if my Dad came on down to Kimo's and asked everyone to play golf with the balls my sister gave him. Unlikely? About as unlikely as Arnold admitting that he is

Gay or giving it away for free. Anything's possible — especially at Christmas. ■

Mike Hippler

Gay Nuns to Convene in Sacramento

The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, San Francisco's own order of Gay male nuns dedicated to the expiation of stigmatic guilt, has announced a convocation of Gay male nuns in Sacramento on Sunday, January 2.

"This historic event — the first of its kind to our knowledge — represents a coalescing of Gay energies: spirit, camp, drag and political awareness," explains Sr. Florence Nightmare, R.N., Novice Mistress of the San Francisco Sisters.

The Charitable Sisters of Izod (Sacramento) and the Order of the Candle Burnt at Both Ends (Davis) are also

sponsoring the meeting which has been dubbed "NunCon '83!"

Only Gay male nuns in habit will be admitted to the convocation. "NunCon '83!" will also feature a croquet tournament, a cocktail party, and the splendid opportunity to do missionary work in the capital over New Year's weekend.

Nuns seeking registration information should contact Mother Katherine ("Ma") Belle, P.O. Box 161808, Sacramento, CA 94816 or Sister Kaye Sera Sera, 55 Sutter Street, Box 770, San Francisco, CA 94104, (415) 431-1765. ■

Stress Program in the Castro

District Health Center #1 is holding a six-week stress management program beginning January 25. All six sessions will be held at the Center, located at 3850 17th St., on Tuesday evenings, 7 to 9 p.m. The last session will be March 1, 1983.

Sessions will cover: recognition of stressors, definition of the stress response, deep muscle relaxation, meditation, visualization, use of affirmations, communication exercises, and discussion of nutrition and exercise.

The fee for the six-session program is \$11.

For more information and/or to register, please call 558-3905, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. ■



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Popper Maker Plays Santa's Helper

\$20,000 Check Goes to Salvation Army

by Wayne April

The company that makes Rush, the liquid "incense" that many Gay men inhale on the dance floor or while having sex, donated \$20,000 to the Salvation Army December 8 in order to revive the Christmas food voucher program.

Pharmex Company President Jay Freezer gave the check to Army Division Commander Lt. Col. Ray Robinson after reading about how the program had run out of money. Robinson said the Army had already dispensed \$60,000 in food vouchers to needy persons in the heaviest rush of charitable demand Robinson had ever seen.

"We here are very fortunate to have recovered from two major fire losses almost exactly three years ago," wrote Freezer in a letter to Robinson. "In the interest of goodwill, our employees have asked that this gift be given in the name of the San Francisco Gay community."

Freezer had been the target of attacks by former Fire Chief Andrew Casper, who blamed alleged fire hazards in Pharmex buildings for the two fires in 1981.

When Freezer was asked by this paper why the money hadn't been donated to a Gay charity, he said that the "best public relations was a donation visible to a substantial

majority" and that it wasn't good to be "totally introverted" when it came to Gay money going to Gay causes.

After the donation was made, however, Freezer said he was concerned the Army "might be playing down" where it had come from. Subsequent articles in the city's two daily papers put his mind to rest.

A great deal of negative publicity was generated several years ago in Chicago when the Salvation Army there supposedly refused a \$5,000 donation raised by a Gay group. The donation was later accepted with profuse apologies. A spokeswoman in the Army's San Francisco office remembered it and said that it had been an "unfortunate error" on the part of someone who wasn't authorized to speak for the Army. "We're just glad to get the money; we don't care where it comes from," she said. ■



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Coors Case Takes New Turn

(Continued from Page 1)

Day. Wallace insists that he used a Solidarity / Boycott advertisement (from a Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day program) because "it happened to be handy." He placed his own commentary on the back of the flyer. The charge that he threatened violence stems from a conversation Wallace had and is not related to the flyer. Coors Day was cancelled.

CONSERVATIVE CAUSES

The general boycott against Coors centers on the company's alleged history of discrimination against minorities, its continuing use of a lie-detector test on prospective employees, and alleged anti-union practices. The Gay communication boycott has centered on the wealthy Coors family which has consistently supported conservative causes and politicians. The contention has been that Coors gives financial help to those that national Gay rights groups are attempting to defeat. The *Bay Area Reporter* has supported the boycott from its inception.

Atty. Crosby states that ACLU considers its involvement in this suit to be a major project. She stresses that Coors is attempting to use antitrust laws against a Gay group. Earlier attempts to use these laws against minorities were in Missouri (against women in a NOW suit) and in Mississippi (against Blacks). Both of these



The names of Solidarity members have been subpoenaed by the courts on a Coors brewery motion. (Photo: Rink)

suits were victorious for the minority defendants... Crosby emphasizes that antitrust laws have been used to prohibit monopolistic practices and to limit unfair competitive practices. She does not understand how the Coors action fits within antitrust law.

PUBLISHERS MEETING

The publishers of several San Francisco Gay newspapers have accepted invitations to an all-expense-paid junket to the Coors plant in Golden Colorado. The venture will be on January 21 with publishers of *The Voice*, *The Castro Times* and the *Sentinel* in attendance. The publisher of *The Advocate*

states that "it is possible" that he will be there. *Bay Area Reporter* has declined the invitation because of possible conflict of interest. Commented B.A.R. editor Paul Lorch, "You don't do investigative journalism on the guy who is paying the freight. Coors is out to buy a positive image; they should be dealing with the advertising director."

"I'm embarrassed for my colleagues," added Lorch: "they've let themselves be had."

Wayne Smith, an assistant manager for the local Coors distributor is excited over the publishers meeting. He believes, "those going to Golden will be able to clear up once and for all the claim that Coors discriminates. They will be able to talk to anyone — just as Mike Wallace did."

The reference to Mike Wallace concerns a segment on the Coors boycott shown on a recent "60 Minutes" television show. Local boycott advocates claim that the segment did not include the CBS footage filmed in San Francisco as to why Gay people were boycotting the beer. Howard Wallace called the footage "a whitewash." Currently, Coors is screening the CBS segment as a promotional film for the company. One recent screening was for twenty local Gay bartenders.

There are currently over 200 bars and restaurants that cater to Gay people in the city. Coors' Smith, who is Gay himself, is pleased that there are now 16 serving Coors and he sees this as progress. He is hopeful that the January Gay publishers meeting will result in some Gay newspapers urging an end to the boycott.

George Mendenhall



Solidarity/Gay union activist runs afoul of the Coors juggernaut. (Photo: Rink)

Equestrian Star Murdered in Richmond

by Anne Hurley

Richmond police arrested two teenaged boys last Friday, December 17, and charged them with the murder of U.S. Equestrian Team member Gary Ryman.

Ryman, 32, a resident of Woodside and San Francisco, was found stabbed to death in a vacant cottage in Richmond on December 7. His body was not identified for four days.

Richmond police arrested the suspects, aged 16 and 17, at Byron Boys Ranch, a California Youth Authority (CYA) facility near Stockton.

The boys had been released on a weekend leave to visit their families in Richmond. However, they overstayed their leave and did not return to the CYA until Tuesday, the day Ryman's body was found. Richmond police have established that they were in the area at the time of Ryman's death, which occurred late Monday night or early Tuesday morning.

Physical evidence linking the boys to Ryman was found in the cottage where he was killed and in the boys' parents' homes. Richmond police would not disclose the nature of this evidence.

Police theorize that Ryman was killed during the course of a robbery. They would not speculate as to how or where Ryman met his killers but they have ascertained that he was on Polk Street a few hours before his death.

Ryman was a world-class horseman and had just returned from a successful tour of the European show circuit the day before his death. According to friends, he was an out of the closet Gay man.

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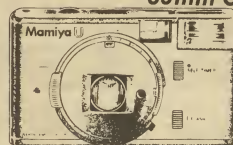
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VOL. XII NO. 51 DECEMBER 23, 1982

NEXT DEADLINE: DEC. 24

NEXT ISSUE OUT: DEC. 30

VIEWPOINT LETTERS

A Crucible for Christmas

If the Gay community were sending a letter to Santa this season, what might we be asking for?

One branch would ask for AB1. A second would ask for spousal rights tied in lavender ribbon. A third would send to the North Pole for a candidate to run against Dianne Feinstein in '83. A fourth dimension would want little more than catching the Christmas spirit. And not a few would ask for a cure to AIDS to be stuffed in their holiday stocking.

But as every child who hung his stocking in the days before Christmas knew — there was always the possibility that the chilly morning would bring an empty stocking or a piece of coal. The moral of a 19th century Christmas as that life brought good and bad things to children — depending on the way they behaved. Late 20th century children's Christmases are more like passion plays testifying to greed.

We learn from the cradle that Christmas is the season of giving. To close out 1982 the best gift the Gay community could give to each other and to themselves is good health.

That's not news, but after a year of deadly diagnoses, friends and enemies falling prey, the list of opportunistic infections growing by the month, deaths, memorial services — many Gay men have been doing some long thinking. The word has spread by experience — just like the diseases themselves — and the media for all its power and impotence have been able neither to stem the tide or expand the consciousness. And correct information doesn't seem any more useful than incorrect information . . . insofar as it's a bit different than brushing your teeth three times a day will prevent cavities.

1983 — by the statisticians tables — will be worse than 1982, so be prepared for a rockier year to come. Each one of us will lose a friend or a handful of friends in the next 12 months. It could be a lover; it could be as easily the writer and reader of this less than happy Christmas message.

It will be a time that will try the soul of this Gay community — if not for this generation its finest hour. The challenge will be for us to put into play the host of fundamental Christian virtues — those values of caring. To visit the sick. To bury the dead.

It — hopefully — will not be a time when we bray at the moon, beat our breasts, or curse our lot. Hopefully neither will it be a time when we stumble into maudlin self-pity. Rest assured we — if we haven't been — will be the new market for every quack who ever turned a crooked dollar. These fakes will surface on every front: the medical, the psychological, the religious, the nutritional, the scientific, the psychic — yes, even the political. Each one will offer a resolution to our dilemma. They will infiltrate the money-raisers, the party-throwers, the speakers' circuit, the pulpits. Just how many conferences on AIDS — ask yourselves — does any one community need?

Whatever else we will do right or wrong in these months to come, let us not surrender the responsibilities of ourselves to some outside force. Give the do-gooders an inch and they will steal a soul. In KS territory it's our souls on the block.

All of us have lived these past years the lives of silver linings. If this Christmas we sense for a spell a greater fullness: the preciousness of our health, of our friends, of our beloved — those others who have been stricken and died — if they teach us that my body and your body are things to be cherished — they will have suffered not in absurdity.

It's going to get worse. May through it some of us get better.

P. Lorch



I CARE

★ This is in response to "Gay's A Bummer," Mr. Pizalato's letter in issue 49. I agree that there are many men in this city who are hypocrites, but there are some of us who are caring, loving men. I care, and I do give a shit about people.

I am a nonsmoking, nondrinking, attractive gay man, and I want friends. Mr. Pizalato, if you are unable to find a friend, know that you aren't alone, and please don't give up entirely.

I don't want to lose your support and caring — it's too rare. I will be your friend if you will let me.

Todd M. Balderson
San Francisco

P.S. If you want to contact me, my address is 2362 15th Street, San Francisco 94114.

NO BURNS IN SALEM

★ Re: Lorin Gillette's letter, "Habits Are Tiresome" (B.A.R., 12/9/82)

While your points regarding Sister Boom Boom's rebuttal may or may not be accurate in most areas — I should like to correct one historical misbelief. As a former long-time resident of Massachusetts, I should like to state (and historically correct) that there were not any witches burned at Salem. They were hung, stoned, or pressed to death. Almost always their land was confiscated. I believe some were also drowned. Plus, although perhaps no one needs reminding, the hysteria was caused by some pretty mischievous teenagers and it got out of hand, not by organized church structure as in Europe. One of these teenagers, whom I believe (but may be wrong) was Anne Putnam, confessed the fraud some years later in front of the entire congregation of Salem Village, which is actually Danvers now, as at the time there was a Salem Town and a Salem Village. The hysteria was at the village, not the town and the majority of people who died, died in prison. Apart from Rebecca Nurse and a few others, there weren't many executions. But no one, not even Tituba, who told those teenagers ghost stories from her native islands in the afternoons, was burned. (Inaccuracies are also tiresome.)

Sue Wylie
Oakland, CA

WHO DESERVES EQUAL TREATMENT

★ Why doesn't the B.A.R. ask several straight men and women in the community for their reactions to the recent homophobic editorials printed in our city's three major newspapers? Why does the Badlands discriminate against women? Why do some of the posters that I read on telephone poles advertise discounts to female couples who attend their dance clubs?

How can the gay community even ask equality of the straight community without actively practicing it themselves? Gay's a bummer all right, and an esoteric one at that!

M.S.T.S.
San Francisco

A FALSE BILL

★ As a citizen of San Francisco, as a gay man with a live-in lover of over a year, and as a member of Alice, I support Mayor Feinstein's veto of the Domestic Partnership ordinance.

With the Mayor, I support the expansion of city benefits to dependent individuals of city employees.

The ordinance did not do this. Instead, it divided the whole city into arbitrary distinctions with "sharing the necessities" more important than dependency, need, or relation by blood. Isn't this a reasonable objection: where was our leadership? Don't we strive to include all of humanity in our efforts rather than selfishly including only our sexual partners? I suggest that Harry Britt wanted to see another "Gay Rights" bill rather than redress inequity. Where were our coalitions with the single parent families? Where were our coalitions with the disabled? Where were our coalitions with those who have live-in seniors? Do we think we can win justice without them? It was our responsibility to include them; we did not. It is the Mayor's duty to prevent unequal treatment of persons; her veto was just.

With the mayor, I agree that the ordinance is open to vast abuse. Rather than acting as a support for our often fragile relationships, the ordinance will strengthen current norms against us. The constant shifts of partners by many will be noted with statistics. The flagrant and easy abuse of the no-limits bill will be used against us with great effect. It is important that this ordinance give support both to our relationships and our movement. But where was our leadership? Why not stand for a little restraint, a little longer waiting time, for example, half the time of a common law marriage: three years? Fear of possible abuse would then be eliminated, and the financial impact on the health care insurance system would be vastly reduced.

So what do we do now? Let's go after a good bill. We want something San Francisco can be proud of: a pattern for the nation and the world. Can someone find a salable alternative for benefits that does not touch on "sacred marriage"? The laws on marriage, blood, and relationship are jurisdictions of the State of California and are not under the sway of any city body. We need a pattern that recognizes the changing fabric of the American family: single parents, live-in lovers, mutually dependent siblings, the disabled and dependent seniors.

I am thankful the mayor had the courage to veto a very bad law.

G. Mack Hicks
San Francisco

REWORK THE BILL

Dear Mayor Feinstein:

I am substantially disappointed by your veto of the domestic partners' ordinance.

The ordinance, in itself, is quite innocuous since it would have done really nothing more than allow hospital and jail visits by a domestic partner. Therefore, on its face I suppose the loss to the gay community is only minimal but therein lies the rub.

The gay movement has long fought to be left alone and not to be discriminated against in an active fashion. This piece of legislation, however, represented a small, cautious step forward. It represented an affirmative action to recognize nontraditional, non-marital relationships between two individuals and attempted to start the process of formally recognizing those relationships.

Your comments to the press before the measure was passed in its final form and even portions of your veto message state that you had problems with the specifics of the ordinance and of its language. I hope that this is in fact what you meant since I am sure the Supervisors will bring a reworked version out of committee should they fail to override your veto. I am concerned, however, as I indicated in the beginning of this letter, that as the provisions of the ordinance are so minimal and since the ordinance represents a positive step for nontraditional relationships, that your real action is a disapproval of the legislation in concept and that even a reworked ordinance will receive the same fate, i.e. your veto.

Robert R. Bacci
San Francisco

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LETTERS

OUR DEMAGOGUE



★ As a gay person, as a humanist, and as a resident of the city of San Francisco, I am writing to express my extreme irritation with the divisiveness and personal arrogance reflected by Supervisor Harry Britt's recently proposed (and vetoed) "live-in lover" legislation.

A few points to consider:

1. In reality, this proposed ordinance sought only to further the financial benefits provided to a limited number of city employees. It did not address any significant issues of personal or sexual discrimination in terms of fair employment or housing opportunities or the freedoms of individual expression.

2. As proposed, this ordinance was legally anemic and unenforceable in terms of definition of "lover" (or a "significant other") within a homosexual or a heterosexual relationship.

To remedy this situation, two possibilities exist: (a) the state could institute a legally-recognized "marriage" for persons of the same sex; or (b) all single persons (gay or straight) could be given the option of designating a "significant other" as an equivalent substitution for the law's current definition of "spouse."

3. Harry Britt's conduct in proposing and advocating this measure reflects a noticeable lack of legal sophistication and intellectual depth. Also (and apart from the limited financial benefits which his ordinance promises for city employees), it appears to be primarily self-serving and demagogic in purpose.

In summary, Harry Britt's performance as a political office holder and as a representative of the gay community fails to incorporate a proper and much-needed balance of social compassion with rational intelligence.

To put it more bluntly: Britt is simply another bad politician whose sexuality has little bearing on his lack of professional competence.

Eric Hellman
San Francisco

FANTASY

★ Your letters column is always of interest. In the past we have been entertained with stories of the sympathy shown by Dianne Feinstein toward gays and the unblemished political record of pro-gay Louise Renne. December 9's issue carried a letter from Lorin Gillette stating, "The Catholic Church (sic.), at least in San Francisco is currently showing a tolerance for differences in lifestyles hardly to be believed." Expression of fantasy has always been an important element of gay life. It seems to be particularly important to those who wish to defend the established structures and government.

Jerry Jansen
San Francisco

SCARED AND COWED

★ Just wondering when you're going to break the story about Atlas Savings forcing the mom-and-pop Eureka Super market out of business by tripling their rent. I mean, my gosh, it's only been two months.

It was enough to wait two months for Don Jacobs' alleged embezzlement story. How many sacred cows do you people have anyhow?

David Kaye
San Francisco

P.S. Please include list of sacred cows soonest.

ED. NOTE: The wait on Don Jacobs was for him to have been officially charged. Up to that point it was all hearsay and we had no inclination to needlessly blacken a person's reputation.

The Eureka Super market, however, is one of our sacred cows. We figure their fiscal trials and tribulations their private business.

P. Lorch

MARRIAGE, BAH!

★ I've had to chuckle over all the "sanctity and responsibility of (heterosexual) marriage" bullshit that's been printed in the *Chronicle* and *Examiner* in response to the domestic partners legislation. I keep remembering my high school peer, Tom, one of several male heterosexual classmates who accidentally knocked up a girlfriend during our senior year. Her parents made Tom promise to marry her after graduation. While the bride-to-be was showing off her engagement ring to the girls in the library, the boys in the locker room were asking Tom how he felt about his approaching wedding day. "Hey, man," he groaned. "I didn't want to have to marry the bitch. I just wanted to fuck her."

In this heterosexual society, the prime requisite for marriage is that one partner have a penis and the other one have a vagina. "Morality" is not necessarily involved.

R. Baxter
San Francisco

ARCHBISHOP HAS RIGHTS, TOO

★ Once again I speak out in support of our Archbishop, especially on his letter to Mayor Feinstein regarding the rights of Domestic Partners.

To begin, I suggest that dissidents read the Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World, especially Part I, chapter I, The Dignity of the Human Person, and chapter II, The Community of Mankind, also Part II, chapter I, Fostering the Nobility of Marriage and the Family, and chapter IV, The Life of the Political Community.

These are the official teachings of the Church. Nowhere in the documents of Vatican II have I seen homosexuality mentioned, let alone denigrated.

The Archbishop did not break separation of Church and State in his letter. He did not request a veto, rather he stated his opinion, which is his right as a citizen and his obligation as a priest.

He stated clearly that domestic partners have needs that should be filled. He objected to the inference that marriage and domestic partnerships are equal.

A stroll down Polk Street is all one needs to see what damage the obsolescence of traditional family structures has done to today's youth.

Scripture and tradition have tried to make it clear to us that if we are to maintain any values worth having that we must protect the integrity and the spirituality of the traditional family structure.

If we as gays would only take the time to look around ourselves in the bars, we would see how many people are lost and lonely because of the loss of family structure.

Are you lonely this Christmas? Why? Where is your family? Did they at all try to foster the vocation of marriage and parenthood with true Christian Values?

I feel that we as gays, especially gay Christians, should spend more time reading scripture, Church documents, traditional authors and current authors. We should spend more time in prayer and meditation so that we can ascertain what our true values are.

Richard J. Hammond
San Francisco

VETO

★ There was an ordinance passed by the Supervisors that said before a stop sign or traffic light could be installed on a street where MUNI operates there must be a study to determine how much it would cost MUNI. Vetoed by the Mayor.

The ban on condo conversions. Vetoed by the Mayor.

The live-lover ordinance. Vetoed by the Mayor.

There is a petition to recall the Mayor, Dianne Feinstein. She, vetoed by the people.

Norman Armentrout
San Francisco

LOOKING ALIKE

★ I recently attended a holiday cocktail party and was more than surprised to see the loss of identity with so many couples. Each and every couple who were there were dressed exactly alike. Same crew neck sweaters . . . different colors, same shirt with matching web belt but, again, different colors. I could look around the room and pick out the couples. Even the hosts were in matching shirts and matching slacks. My lover and I find this hard to understand, as we have no interest in either looking alike, e.g. same beard shape, same haircut, same clothes. We both found this rather amusing, to say the least. Mothers used to dress their little girls alike but these poor children had no choice. We, fortunately, do! Let identity live . . .

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Folsom Merchants are Hanging in There!

by Phil Henway

Nick O'Demus looks understandably tired, but is always ready to provide good copy for a reporter. 1982 has not been an easy year for him. His leather/clothing/novelty store was forced to move around the corner to smaller quarters in September. That, coupled with a national recession, has taken its toll on business at the Trading Post.

"It's hard to evaluate the business. I don't know what's going to happen in 1983. Basic necessities will still sell, but luxury items, no. Nobody is spending money like drunken sailors anymore," Nick's comments seem to reflect those of several others we contacted South of Market about Christmas '82. National figures estimate most retailers depend on the Christmas season to provide about one quarter of their gross earnings. For some of the smaller businesses, this year could be a "make or break" season.

After 15 years of retailing, though, Nick O'Demus is quick to add he has plans for dealing with the future. He believes his new Sixth Street location may eventually work to his advantage. So many cars whiz by during evening rush hour, Nick is putting up a sign announcing a ten percent commuter discount from 4-7 PM. He also plans to carry more women's clothing. For now he has cut back his staff and is offering less custom leather work.

What is his fastest selling item? "Everyone needs napkin rings," he says impishly. When flashed a quizzical look, he explains, "Cock rings" is sorta vulgar. The Trading Post's "Brand X" aroma also sells well, along with the \$2 poppers. Finally, in a shameless commercial plug, he announces his favorite battle cry: "We have no

he has sold more "Star Wars II" tapes than all others combined. Other new hits include "Poltergeist," "Best Little Whorehouse..." "Reds," and "Annie." And yes, Gay porn tapes are a staple of Bentley's business, too. Al Parker's "Turned On" heads the list, along with "Members Only," "In the Name of Leather" and "Every Which Way." Heterosexuals have made the recording of "Fireworks" a success.

Across the street from the Video Mart is the Cake Gallery. For six years John Barron has provided sweets with a sense of humor. His X-rated and other specialty cakes are practically a must for surprise birthdays, weddings and holiday gatherings.

"Our biggest sellers are cocks and tits," he says as he

faring well, according to owner Lenny Mollet. He invites us all to Christmas Day Dinner, New Year's Eve dinner and New Year's day brunch at his location on Bryant between 3rd and 4th Streets.

Business has dropped appreciably since April and has been unpredictable since then at the fashionable Castle Grand Brasserie. But then, Steve Bushey says, "business is never good enough." On any given day you will find leather types mixing it up with financial district diners, opera and symphony patrons. The Brasserie will also be closed Christmas Day, but a fancy menu is planned for Christmas Eve. New Year's Eve's meal is sure to ring in a rotund 1983. No less than seven courses are promised, replete with chocolate flambe and unlimited champagne. (One seating only at 9 PM.)

The Ranch Kitchen at the Stables offers a much less formal atmosphere. Bruce Lovelady is replacing the Americana wall decor with Christmas kitsch. He threw a traditional Hanukkah dinner this year. How's business? Just fine, thanks!

Enough food. Sleaze enthusiasts, of course, have been celebrating at parties in the private clubs. One noteworthy example was the Animal's First Anniversary party December 11. Owner Russ Culver says that one produced the largest attendance there ever, and most customers stayed all night. That's not the only party there recently, and Culver says he and partner Bob Betcher will have gone through three sets of decorations by Christmas.

"But the last couple of months' growth has not been as dramatic, says Culver. "It's obvious people don't have as much money to spend." Culver says he notices differences in the Folsom bars. "They're buying drinks but not tipping. They're guarding their money." Culver also admits the K.S. scare might also be keeping customers home.

Caldron owner Hal Slate thinks people will always be seeking ways to escape, no matter what the economic forecast. "Spending two or three bucks to get laid during hard times is a bargain. Look how the movie business prospered during the depression," he declares. This year August and September were the Caldron's best months, but he notes his business has also reached a plateau. "It had to happen sometime," says Slate. "Our big nights are bigger than ever, but week nights are off."

Seasonal decorations went up in time for Tuesday's Free Winter Solstice party, Slate says his club will be open Christmas Eve, Christmas night, and of course, New Year's Eve. As for the future, look for some interesting



Christmas on Folsom Street. The Cake Gallery is featuring its holiday special — a "Hunk Cake." (Photo: Rink)

changes on Thursday nights, but not Tuesday Night J/O parties. Those are still well attended. Early evening activities are credited with Tuesday's successes.

At the Hothouse, Louis Gaspar says the holidays arrived sooner than expected for him. Still, like most private clubs we contacted, Gaspar predicts a big New Year's Eve party crowd. No membership is required for those showing up Christmas. Gaspar says business is a little less than last year.

One of the best bargains this year has to be the Boot Camp Club at 8th and Bryant. All members get in free until Christmas, and free beer is served there from 4-8 PM on Sundays.

Holiday parties have abounded this year at the Stables. Christmas cheer de-

pear worried about the future. Says Neeleman, "Traditionally, a bar has been a place where you can unload your troubles." And when do you expect not to have troubles?

"Friends and dear customers" will have been properly thanked at the Watering Hole on Wednesday the 22nd, according to Brian. Last Sunday the bar sponsored a "Toys for Tots" donation party.

It has been a bash every night this week so far at the SF Eagle. Sunday was the Senior Citizen's Beer Bust (Note: the proceeds went to senior citizens, not the beer!) Monday was a tree-trimming party, and Tuesday was a private party. This Thursday, the 23rd, is the Eagle's Open Party, with hors d'oeuvres, surprises and gifts. Hot brandy and egg nog will be



The bartenders at Febe's warm up for the holidays. (Photo: Rink)

competition — only imitators."

Nick's temporary problems notwithstanding, several merchants we interviewed seemed to be faring well. One need only look to Paul Bentley's Video Mart to find a genuine success story.

At one time or another Bentley has owned 17 bars, including the original Ramrod. He also lives south of Market. When Video Mart was established this time last year, it offered \$30,000 in rental tapes. This year make that figure \$125,000. Video Mart now boasts two thousand renters of VTR's, Beta tapes and discs, and "everybody's buying video recorders for Christmas."

Sales of tapes are not as spectacular. Bentley does say

squirts flesh-colored icing on a well-hung masterpiece. Barron hesitates to proclaim his most outrageous creation, but he confides, "Most people want to get carried away with cake decors."

John Barron has noted a dip in sales since October, but is confident things are picking up. He is hoping for blue skies until Christmas, since the rains ruined last year's holiday foot traffic.

Not all food-oriented businesses we contacted have reported a stunning season thus far. Peter Ciddio of Pasta II at 15th and South Van Ness says business is off by about 50% this year. Since most people do not think of Italian cuisine around the holidays, Ciddio will be closed Christmas day.

Chez Mollet seems to be



South of Market's The Stables dress up for a Christmas party. (Photo: Rink)

corations include an 18-foot tree in the outdoor courtyard and another tree inside. A trimming party was thrown last Friday night. Co-owner Rick Needleman has also been busy with preparations for a religious art show on the 22nd and another art show again on the 29th. Partied out? Don't forget the New Year's Eve soiree! It's not been easy, this year, but Rick and partners Steve Margules and Warren Gerber don't ap-

posed on Christmas Eve and Christmas night, and one can enjoy the splendor of a 25-foot tree on the patio, plus copious red and silver decorations all about.

Kerry Bowman of the Ambush announces nothing special is planned for the season there, but then, he doesn't really need to. Ambush customers just keep coming back. It is a bar noted for its loyal

(Continued on Page 14)

An open letter to the gay community on hepatitis B

Hepatitis B, a serious disease, may be sexually transmitted

Sexually transmitted diseases among the gay community are epidemic. Herpes has recently received a lot of attention; gonorrhea and syphilis are well known; but the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recently issued a major recommendation for the prevention of another sexually transmitted disease: Hepatitis B. In their *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, the CDC stated: "Susceptible homosexually active males should be vaccinated [against hepatitis B] regardless of their age or duration of their homosexual practices."

Gay men are at a high risk of contracting hepatitis B

In one study, from 51% to 76% of 3,816 gay men seen in five sexually transmitted disease clinics had evidence of past or present hepatitis B infection. Once infected, there's a 6% to 10% chance of becoming a carrier—capable of passing on the virus. The CDC estimated there are nearly 1 million carriers in the United States and that 100,000 of these carriers are gay men.

The hepatitis B virus can be passed on by contact with contaminated body fluids

such as saliva, urine, semen, and blood. The hepatitis B virus can be transmitted through tiny breaks in the skin or contact with mucous membranes. This can occur during intimate sexual contact and can lead to hepatitis B for the partner of an infected person. Although most patients recover and over half contracting hepatitis B do not get symptoms, there is no specific treatment and no known cure for hepatitis B infections.

Hepatitis B may lead to even more serious complications

For those who do get symptoms of hepatitis B, a mild or severe "flu-like" sickness may continue for weeks or months. Ten percent of all infections become long lasting (chronic) with potential complications that are sometimes more serious than those of other sexually transmitted diseases. The serious complications include the chronic carrier state, chronic active hepatitis, chronic persistent hepatitis, cirrhosis, and even cancer of the liver. Every year almost 4,000 carriers die of cirrhosis. In addition, carriers have a risk 273 times greater than that of the general population of contracting a usually fatal form of liver cancer.

Now this serious sexually transmitted disease is usually preventable by vaccination with the new hepatitis B vaccine

After more than a decade of research and development, a new vaccine is available for prevention, *not treatment*, of hepatitis B. In clinical studies, the vaccine was highly effective in preventing hepatitis B infection and was generally well tolerated. No serious adverse reactions occurred in these studies.

The vaccination regimen consists of a series of three injections, the first two a month apart and the third, six months after the first. To be effective, the vaccine must be given before a person gets hepatitis B. The vaccine helps prevent the disease: It is *not effective as a treatment*. We suggest that you consult your doctor to determine if you should be vaccinated.

**For more information
about hepatitis B and the
vaccine to prevent it, contact
your doctor, clinic, or the
American Liver Founda-
tion. 998 Pompton Avenue,
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(201) 857-2626.**

This message is brought to you as a public service by
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Why you should consult your doctor or clinic

The vaccine helps protect against infection caused by hepatitis B virus. This virus is an important cause of viral hepatitis, a disease mainly of the liver. Even mild forms of this disease may lead to serious complications and aftereffects, including liver cancer. There is no specific treatment for viral hepatitis.

Vaccination is recommended for persons who have a higher risk of becoming infected with hepatitis B virus because of frequent, close contact with infected people or exposure to body fluids from such people. It will not

protect against hepatitis caused by viruses other than hepatitis B virus.

No serious adverse reactions were reported in over 6,000 individuals receiving the vaccine in clinical trials. The most frequent reaction was soreness at the point of injection; less common local reactions included redness, swelling, warmth, or formation of a hard, lumplike spot. The local effects were usually mild and lasted no more than 2 days after vaccination. Occasionally, low-grade fever (less than 101 °F) occurred. When it did, it usually lasted no longer than 48 hours following vaccination. In

rare cases, fever over 102 °F was reported.

More generalized complaints including malaise, fatigue, headache, nausea, dizziness, muscle pain, and joint pain were reported infrequently. Rash was reported rarely. As with any vaccine, broad use may reveal additional adverse reactions.

Your doctor or clinic knows what special care must be taken when administering the vaccine and in determining who should receive the vaccine. The vaccine is not intended for persons who are allergic to any of its components.

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■ **PATIENT SERVICES**
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■ **PATIENT SUPPORT**
Coordinating appropriate referrals or provision of services for emotional and psychological support for Kaposi's and Pneumocystis patients.

■ **COMMUNITY EDUCATION**
Educating the community at large in prevention and detection of these diseases. The Foundation works closely with other organizations and agencies in the Bay Area and around the country which are also making contributions to the study and elimination of these diseases which are also seeking to meet the needs of affected patients.

■ **PLEASE GIVE TODAY!** We need your participation and we need your financial support. — Marcus A. Conant, M.D., President

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LETTERS

ARCHBISHOP NEEDS TO RETHINK

★ By condemning homosexual domestic partnerships as offensive and injurious to our society, Archbishop Quinn has substantially advanced the effort of the Roman Catholic Church to keep Gay people in their place as second-class citizens. More importantly, he has implicitly encouraged young Catholic thugs to express their hatred of homosexuals by attacking Gays on the streets, since people who would (in his opinion) diminish the value of the family deserve to be punished, and punished severely. He, therefore, should be held partially responsible for any such attacks that occur in the Bay Area in the near future (especially by Catholic thugs) and should be forced through litigation or other means to compensate the victims of his wrongdoing.

I was initially encouraged by Quinn's open opposition to Proposition 6 (Oct. 1978, Briggs' initiative against homosexual teachers) and his more recent opposition to the proliferation of nuclear weapons (Jan. 1982) and his support of rent stabilization (Feb. 1982), hoping that he might eventually take a stand as a Catholic leader against anti-Gay violence. However, his most recent pronouncement on the negative value of same-sex domestic partnerships means at best that he desires the early demise of such relationships and at worst that he has no significant objection to physical beatings of homosexuals by young Catholic thugs.

Richard Gayer
San Francisco

A.C.T. HELPER

★ The holiday season being what it is, I have just now gotten around to reading your Nov. 18 review of A.C.T.'s production of *The Chalk Garden*.

I am delighted you found the play to be so satisfying. But I am particularly grateful that you took the time and space to discuss A.C.T.'s worth, in the Gay community and elsewhere.

We are in no danger of leaving San Francisco, yet sometimes it seems that because of our size we are taken for granted. Our actors, designers, directors and technicians need as much positive feedback as those in smaller arts organizations.

Kirsten Mickelwait
Press Representative, A.C.T.
San Francisco

MACHOTOP

★ The letter from "Just sign me" (Vol. XII, No. 48, 12, 2, 82) who claims to be "one of the last Romans in the area, Stanford, CA" really didn't set well with me.

Sweetheart, the day you want a dick up your ass, with or without romance, is the day I hope you learn to use a douche kit, enema bag, or hose. There is nothing I like better than playing with and fucking a nice clean ass. And nothing turns me off faster than a dirty ass hole.

If you're such a romantic, then you above anyone else should want your sex partner to be as thrilled with your ass as he was while looking into your eyes in the candlelight. But realize that a dirty ass can kill the atmosphere and the proposal of one who was in a romantic mood.

If you were offended by the terminology of "The Grand Wizard of Poo Poo Holes" (Vol. XII, No. 46, 11, 18, 82) your letter should have stated so. But rather you virtually told us that when you're out for a good time, you're there full of shit.

My basic message is the same as "The Grand Wizard's," clean up or stay home.

Lover of a Clean Party Ass
San Leandro, CA

DANCING THANKS

★ Dance can be the most exciting of the arts and also provide the deepest expression of a community. Falcon Dance Theater has recognized the creative diversity of San Francisco as well as its heritage of innovation and catalysis.

Though we have been performing in the Gay community for as long as (or longer than) the local bands, choruses, and theater groups, it was in 1982 that we brought Dance most powerfully to our own community and the enthusiasm has been a confection of joy on both sides of the footlights. We want to thank everyone who supported not only Falcon Dance Theater, but all of the city's gay dance companies during the past year.

We would especially like to salute the following individuals and organizations for their outstanding contributions: Stephen Zandt, Golden Gate Performing Arts, Barbary Coast Cloggers, Raymoki Engler, Al Fellahin Belly Dance Co., Cruz Luna, Bob Murphy, Keith White, Penni Kimmel, Tony Plewik, Bob Ross, S.F. Gay Olympics Physique Team, The Woods, The Advocate, Gramophone, Support Services for the Arts, Chuck Thayer Advertising, John F. Karr, Coming Up, The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, Kiss My Sweet, Neon-Neon, Bob Cramer, Hassan Al Falak, Robert Komancsek, Merriem Lanova, Mr. Marcus, Beaux Arts Ball, Alan MacDonald, Ross Snow, Mary Cantrell, Henry Kersh, Benign Enous, and most importantly, our audiences.

Randall Krivonic & Joe Poltrone
for Falcon Dance Theater
San Francisco

VIVA BROWNIE MARY



★ The arrest of "Brownie Mary" for a second time points to the disparity in priorities within the judicial system.

A mayor and supervisor of this city can be gunned down in cold blood, and get a ridiculous sentence. Citizens can be mugged on the street and the police allow the muggers to intimidate their victims, and the list of stupidities goes on.

Marijuana is as common as the martini in this town. The national debt could be considerably reduced if the federal government would have the courage to buck the underworld and legalize it.

The taxpayers' money is wasted prosecuting prostitutes and little old ladies who make a good product. It is time people stood up and decided what laws are worth enforcing in this society, and those to overlook or change.

Tom Youngblood
San Francisco

SPOUSAL HEALTH

★ There are two major flaws with the awarding of spousal health benefits. First, spousal benefits are based on an outmoded and repressive model of the male breadwinner and the dependent housewife; secondly, all government corporate sponsored health plans create a two-tier health care system in which those who plug into the system can afford health care, while other independent types, such as myself, must bear expensive health costs on an already limited income.

But what am I complaining about: maybe all I need is a government job and/or a rich husband, huh?

Carl Morfeld
San Francisco

OVERRIDE THE VETO

★ It seems that Archbishop Quinn and Mayor Feinstein are determined to finish the job that Dan White started. After the Archbishop opposed allowing all domestic partners equal rights for hospital visitation and to attend funerals, the Mayor vetoed the legislation. The Board of Supervisors, having passed the legislation by an 8 to 3 vote, must override her veto, or be honest and admit that religious bigotry, homophobia, and sexism still dominate supposedly "liberal" San Francisco.

R. Hunter Morey, MSW
San Francisco

COPS IN THE BUSHES

★ On Thursday, December 9, at 10:30 p.m., I was in Lafayette Park, where I have cruised hundreds of times in the past. While off in some bushes, I heard a voice not three feet away suddenly yell out, "Police! You're under arrest! Let's go motherfucker!" I ducked down but could hear yells, and the sound of others running out of the park in all directions. The person being arrested was sufficiently intimidated and was saying, "OK, OK, all right, all right." The policeman then called out to his partner, "Bob, are you OK?" At his point, Bob didn't answer, I heard the "click, click" of the handcuffs, and I jumped up and ran down the hill.

In the past our boys in blue have driven through the park in their car, walked through on the concrete paths, thrown cherry bombs, etc. All these games were easy to play. Now, though, the police are on foot and in the bushes at Lafayette Park.

Whether the arrest I overheard was entrapment or merely someone caught in the act I do not know. I do know that it is sure suicide to be in Lafayette Park these days.

Name withheld on request
Sacramento, CA

LETTERS

GRANDE DAME

★ So Grand Dame Feinstein drives another nail into her political coffin by vetoing the spousal benefits rights ordinance. When will the gay community finally realize that this woman mayor's past subtle actions against gays more than justifies her earning the label of closet homophobe?

Underneath Feinstein's artificial Democratic position lies a covert repressive Republican. I have lived in San Francisco for the last 13 years. The unwelcome drastic changes this city has endured since Feinstein took office truly goes to prove that she can be a detriment to the development and growth of all minorities in this city. She has devoutly sold a "bill of goods" to many gullible gay voters who, naively and stupidly, have bought whatever she has to sell. Yours truly has always been an avowed opponent of this mayor and have even advocated for her removal from office. Because of my radical viewpoints against Duchess Dianne, I have been tagged with labels ranging from "rabble rouser" to "malcontent."

Thanks to Mayoress Feinstein's special interest with the real estate developers (she is also a property owner) and with big business downtown, this fiery woman has been able to compound (or perhaps create?) the problems of housing shortage (remember her opposition to rent control and her veto of the condominium ban ordinance?), curtailment of social programs, a mediocre and unsatisfactory public transportation system, the never-ending crime against gays and other citizens, and her blessing and full approval of questionable actions by a somewhat homophobic police department.

Ed Dollak
San Francisco

POSITIVE IN VETO

★ As much as I disagree with Mayor Feinstein's veto of the "domestic partners" ordinance, there is something positive in this development. For now, I and other members of the lesbian and gay community are once and for all psychologically and politically free to totally disavow Feinstein.

This veto culminates a series of homophobic actions taken by the Mayor, which include a refusal to appoint lesbians and gay men to significant city commissions such as the Planning Commission, a refusal to recognize and take action against anti-gay street violence, opposition to the recently-passed Proposition A which brings some civilian review to police misconduct, and the verbalization of moralistic, anti-gay comments regarding our lifestyles and even the Gay Freedom Day Parade.

Feinstein has finally and irrevocably been unmasked for the homophobic bigot that she is. Our community will simply not accept her lame excuse for the exercise of her veto. Charges by homophobic opponents of gay rights legislation have always included references to "vague" and "unclear" language and intent. The New Right has made similar accusations against the Equal Rights Amendment.

But what in fact really agitates Feinstein is the equation made in the ordinance between gay and nongay couples. She simply does not, cannot, put us on an equal footing with herself.

John Mehring
San Francisco

A YEAR-END GIFT

★ Every year at this time I spend some hard-earned money on myself to reward myself for just being me and making it through another crazy year. This year will be a little different. My gay brothers are being killed off — painfully, one by one. Homophobes wing their hands with glee. Congress throws us a crumb for KS research. I recall the national hysteria over legionellosis and the millions upon millions spent to quickly find a cure . . . I can scream. And then I think, "They want us to die."

My gift this year is my continued good health. Tomorrow, next week, I may not still have it. But this year, my money is being sent to AIDS research. There won't be any telethons. We have to save each other now.

Anonymous
San Francisco



LIKES VETO

★ I oppose the "Domestic Partnership" legislation passed by the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, and I applaud the Mayor's veto.

Imperfect as the institution of marriage and the traditional nuclear family might be, it is still the foundation of a free society. It may be old fashioned and unpopular in this modern age to defend traditional family values. But if the gay community would take the time to look beyond their own special interests, and yes, their selfishness, they would find that their freedom to live the lifestyle of their own choosing exists because the traditional family has been the foundation of individual freedom.

In San Francisco, where many gays have migrated, too many have forgotten their traditional families. Too many gays have forgotten the many sacrifices made for them by their "traditional nuclear family."

I believe that if the nuclear family is ever destroyed or undermined, so too will freedom be destroyed — and without freedom, the gays could not even live the lifestyle for which they have been fighting.

William Tocco
San Francisco



(Photo: Rink)

3 GRIPES

★ I have found that opinions are rarely swayed by letters to the editor. However, in light of recent occurrences, I can hold my tongue no longer.

First, concerning the "live-in lover" proposal recently vetoed by Mayor Feinstein: I feel the measure, as written, is too vague to be stamped into law. It allows for too many abuses. The legalization of stable gay relationships seems to be a good idea, as long as both parties are committed to a long-term relationship and the responsibilities that it encompasses.

Second, I do not feel that the gay rights movement includes public sex. If you choose to take the chance, then you should face up to the consequences. This is not freedom, it is exhibitionism. Why is it that when we are called on our actions, an immediate cry of "homophobia" can be heard throughout the land?

Third, regarding the proposed boycott of non-Gay businesses in the Castro: In case you have forgotten, this is the land of free enterprise. In many cases, I much prefer doing business with an establishment whose main marketing tactic is the merchandise and not male erotica/sex. Believe it or not, some of us do think about other things! Eighty percent of the articles/ads in "community" papers are of a sexual (male/male) nature. Have you forgotten that we are human beings first? It seems to me that before we can be "accepted" into the mainstream, we have more than a little housecleaning to do. Please don't disappoint me!

Not Gay, Just Human
San Francisco

MARKS FOR MAYOR

★ Now, Milton Marks! Now! I was one of those who, in supporting P. Burton, agreed with the advertisement that ran in the B.A.R. in October and November: "Not this time Milton Marks."

In the aftermath of Ms Feinstein's veto, in lieu of her direct slap at the Gay community for political advantage, on being disappointed time after time by the pseudo-support of Gay causes, I now call Milton Marks forward to run for Mayor. Those of us who are loyal democrats, who are ready for the most viable candidate say now, Milton Marks, now!

Probably 95% of the Gay community would rally behind our greatest effort to have a true supporter in city hall! Now is the time Milton Marks! Carry our banner. We're ready!

J.A. Reed
North Beach Democrats for Marks

Ed note: I suspect Senator Marks would find a call from the Gay community, at this juncture, to lead a crusade to City Hall of minimal interest.

P. Lorch



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Commission on Privacy Hands Over Final Report to Governor

The Commission on Personal Privacy yesterday transmitted its 500-page Report to the Governor and to the members of the state Legislature.

The Report culminates an 18-month study by the Commission of invasions of privacy and discrimination based on sexual orientation discrimination. During its term the Commission consulted numerous experts and held public hearings in Los Angeles and San Francisco at which it received testimony from professionals and members of the public.

The Commission was created by executive order of Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. on October 9, 1980. The Governor charged them (1) "to study the problems of discrimination based upon sexual orientation or invasions of the right of personal privacy, in both the public and private sectors;" (2) "to document the extent of such problems;" (3) "to explore in what forms the problems are manifested, noting existing remedies;" and (4) "to make recommendations for legislative, administrative, and other action where appropriate."

Former Los Angeles City Attorney Burt Pines was appointed by the Governor to serve as Chairperson of the Commission. Fifteen Commissioners were appointed by the Governor, five by the Speaker of the Assembly, and five by the Senate Rules Committee.

The Commission was directed to submit a final report of its findings and recommendations to the Governor and Legislature by December, 1982. Included among the 80 recommendations proposed by the Commission were suggestions to:

- Adopt a number of reforms to improve the legal treatment of unmarried couples and "alternate families," including a procedure for such persons to declare officially their status as a family unit.

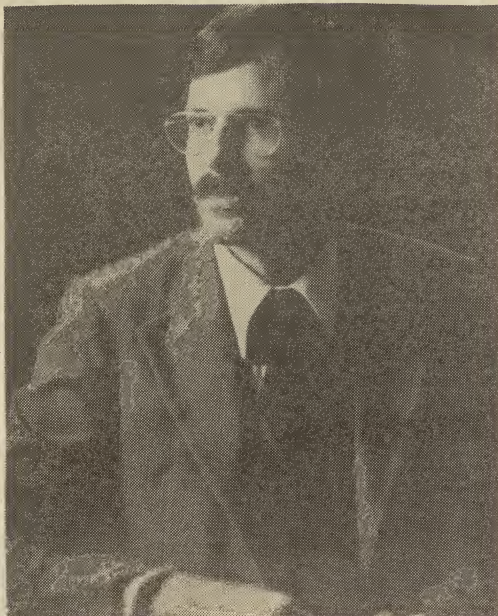
- Amend the Information Practices Act to give individuals a right to inspect and copy records containing personal information about them maintained by local government agencies. Current laws provide for such access only to state government records.

- Adopt state-wide standards which must be met prior to police surveillance of lawful activities of individuals or infiltration of organizations not involved in illegal activities.

- Amend the Penal Code to prohibit video monitoring and clandestine surveillance of restrooms and nonclandestine surveillance of cubicles within dressing rooms in business establishments.

- Expand current laws restricting the use of polygraph tests in employment settings, so that the privacy rights of government employees, including peace officer applicants, are protected.

- Protect privacy and other personal rights of Lesbians and Gay men through a wide range of legislative and administrative actions, including amendments to fair employment and fair housing laws, updating departmental policies, memoranda and literature on discrimination, as well as through a variety of educational measures aimed at end-



Attorney Thomas F. Coleman, executive director of the state's Commission on Personal Privacy.

ing sexual orientation discrimination.

- Prohibit unfair information practices of tenant reporting services as one means of protecting the rights of renters.

- Limit the release of the names of prospective jurors and repeal section 227 of the Code of Civil Procedure which authorizes the physical seizure of citizens for jury service.

- Discourage violence against members of various minority groups by adding "age," "disability," and "sexual orientation" to Civil Code section 51.7 which currently provides for \$10,000 damages to persons who suffer from violence directed at them on account of their race, religion, national origin or sex.

- Protect the personal privacy rights of patients in medical and mental health settings by amending patients' rights laws and through education and training of staff members.

- Expand current laws against the tape recording of private telephone conversations by amending the Penal Code to create a presumption that any telephone conversation is "confidential."

On the work of the Commission, Chairperson Burt Pines stated, "The report of this Commission concludes the most comprehensive study of personal privacy to be conducted by any state in this country. Of all the issues facing the state and the nation, few are more important or more bipartisan than the right of privacy. We hope that the Commission's Report will serve two functions: first, to inform and help educate the people of this state and others as to the right of personal privacy; and second, to operate as a catalyst for further reforms."

Regarding the author of the Commission's Report, Mr. Pines added, "We all owe the greatest debt of gratitude to the Executive Director of the Commission, Thomas F. Coleman. His participation in the project stems back several years to work in this and other

states on many related issues, not only as an attorney, but as an educator and legal scholar.

Commenting on the depth and scope of the Commission's recommendations, Mr. Coleman stated, "The Commission has done a great service not only to legislative leaders and administrators by pointing out specific actions to be taken, but also to various constituencies who will benefit from implementation of these recommendations, namely, the elderly, the disabled, youth, Lesbians and Gay men, as well as workers, consumers, and patients." Mr. Coleman added, "Unmarried couples and members of 'alternate families' have suffered from various forms of discrimination in our society, especially in the area of benefits. A number of the Commission's recommendations go a long way toward ending discrimination against a significant number of persons living in such relationships."

Commented Commissioner Lorch, "A pathfinding document has been produced. Let us now hope it gets used."

LOCAL COMMISSIONERS

Jerry E. Berg, San Francisco: Attorney

Del Dawson, San Francisco: Administrative Assistant, Board of Supervisors

Frankie Jacobs Gillette, ACSW, San Francisco: Co-Owner, G&G Enterprises; First Vice-President, National Association of Negro Business & Professional Women's Clubs, Inc.

William Kraus, San Francisco: Aide to Congressman Phillip Burton

Charles Lamb, San Francisco: President, Local 2, HREBIU

Godfrey D. Lehman, San Francisco

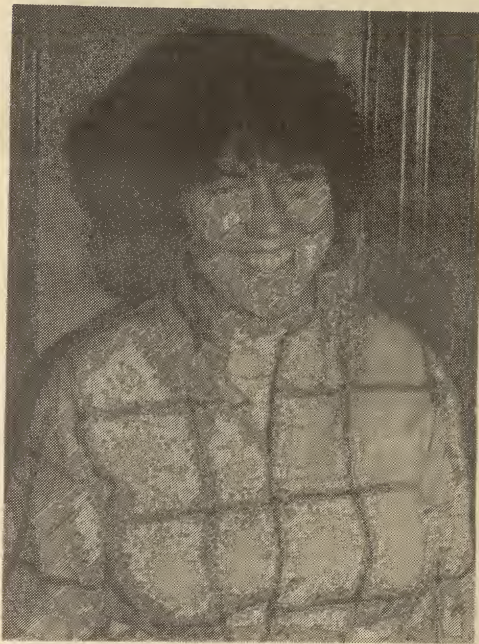
Paul Lorch, San Francisco: Editor, Bay Area Reporter

Wardell B. Pomeroy, San Francisco: Academic Dean, Institute for Advanced Study of Human Sexuality

GRNL Appoints New Regional Director

The Gay Rights National Lobby today announced that Tanyan Corman has been named the new director of the West Coast Regional Office. Kerry Woodward is leaving that position to pursue a career as a biological illustrator.

National Lobby for her dedication and skilled leadership. Recently appointed to the Alameda County Human Relations Commission, Woodward continues as co-chair of the Human Rights Campaign Fund and plans to work on a



Tanyan Corman, new West Coast director for GRNL — replacing Kerry Woodward.

Corman, a community organizer in San Luis Obispo, CA, for Gay rights and feminist issues, was on the California Democratic State and County Central Committees before moving to San Francisco in March to work as the Assistant Regional Director. Corman's background includes involvement in the civil rights and labor union movements, the No on 6 Campaign in California, and four months as an intern with a Congressional sub-committee in Washington, D.C.

Woodward, who established GRNL's first regional office almost two years ago, has the heartfelt thanks of everyone in the Gay Rights

volunteer basis with the Gay Rights National Lobby.

The West Coast Regional Office is responsible for constituent mobilization in 13 western states: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming. The West Coast office also acts as liaison between the national office and grassroots organizers.

Persons interested in the West Coast Intern Program or volunteering in the office should contact Corman at the Gay Rights National Lobby, 890 Hayes Street, SF 94117 or call 621-4500 for more information.

NGRA Announces New Litigation Goals

National Gay Rights Advocates, the San Francisco-based public interest law firm, has announced a new legal agenda for the 1980's. This new litigation program will focus on the legal rights of Gay couples and employment discrimination cases. NGRA will also seek to challenge the oppressive criminal statutes which still exist in half of the states in the nation and are used by legislators as a rationale for not enacting Gay rights laws.

Jean O'Leary, Executive Director of NGRA, expressed enthusiasm for the new program. She said, "It is a far reaching program intended to achieve security and equality for Lesbians and Gay men — both as individuals and couples." When asked how the strategy of concentrating in these areas developed, O'Leary said, "We are simply giving priority to the issues that will improve the quality of our lives."

Leonard Graff, Legal Director of NGRA, said the pro-

gram will respond to the needs of the Gay community while building on past court victories. "Gay people must be treated equally in hiring, promotions, fringe benefits, taxation, visitation rights, and insurance programs." Graff stated that NGRA is in the process of developing the legal theories that will be used in court to bring about these changes.

In a final comment, O'Leary urged all persons who feel they have been discriminated against to contact NGRA for an evaluation of their case. NGRA can be reached at 540 Castro Street, San Francisco, CA 94114.



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Agnos Reintroduces Gay Employment Rights Bill

State Assemblyman Art Agnos (D-San Francisco) has reintroduced legislation to ban discrimination in employment on the basis of sexual orientation. Introduced on Monday, December 6, AB1 faces its first hurdle in the Assembly Committee on Labor and Employment some time in early Spring.

While AB1 has never made it to a floor vote in the past, Assemblyman Agnos expressed confidence that the bill would fare better this year. "Early this year we saw the first state in the nation — Wisconsin — pass a comprehensive Gay rights law," said Agnos, "and that bill was signed by a Republican Governor."

The San Francisco Democrat also commented, "This issue has been debated in the California Legislature for many years now. A very valuable process of education has continued and I think many legislators now understand that regardless of their opinion of homosexuality, discrimination against any group of people cannot be tolerated in a free society."

Agnos noted that local ordinances protecting the rights of Lesbians and Gay men have been on the books in cities throughout the nation for several years and that here in California, Gay state employees have been protected from job discrimination by Governor Brown's two-year old Executive Order.

"AB1 will extend equal protection of the law to one of the last minorities that still faces officially sanctioned discrimination," said Agnos. "I fully expect this to be a controversial issue and I fully expect my colleagues to perceive the justness of this cause."



Assemblyman Art Agnos

Gay political organizations throughout the state are expected to mount a major lobbying campaign in support of AB1, enlisting sympathetic members of labor and religious organizations in the effort.

Parade Chooses '83 Theme

Artists' Conceptions Needed

by Konstantin Berlandt

The theme for the 1983 Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Parade will be "Strengthen the Ties, Break the Chains." The theme was adopted at Sunday's L/GFDC General Membership meeting at the Women's Building.

Artist logo concepts to illustrate the theme will be considered and voted on at the Committee's next General Membership meeting, Sunday, January 9, 5-7p.m. at the Women's Building, 3543

18th Street near Valencia. The meeting is public, and organizers encourage artists to bring illustrations of their concepts as they might apply to T-shirts, buttons, stationery, and banner.

The theme was chosen from 50 or 60 nominations that ranged from "All Together Now — Let's Do It!" and "Rights, Not Tolerance" to "Sick Queers on Parade." Besides the winning theme, other finalists included "Our Freedom or Our Fury," "Unity," "None Are Free Un-

til All Are Free" and "One Way or Another."

In other business, the Committee elected Enrique Perez Corresponding Secretary. Perez is a Research Assistant for the Center for Education and Research in Sexuality at San Francisco State University and a medic with the Berkeley Gay Men's Health Collective. He served as a volunteer medic at last year's parade. He noted he can write letters in both English and Spanish.

The Committee is still looking for a Recording Secretary. Interested persons should call the Parade Committee at (415) 864-1869.

Folsom Christmas

(Continued from Page 8)

patrons. "People who come south of Market are extraordinary. Very few of our customers have lost their jobs. They have more money," says Bowman. Bowman adds most job applications he receives are not from Folsom regulars. What's on tap there for December 31st?

owner Bill Pandolf says. "I'm pleased being south of Market. There are fewer casual customers, fewer walk-ins, no shoplifting, no bad checks and rents are cheaper." This year, Pandolf notices customers buying nicer quality goods. "I think people are looking for something that will last. People really shop, you

Holidays '82 find good and bad times South of Market.

"Coping," says Bowman wearily.

Enough drinking. Another success story is Basic Concepts at 16th and South Van Ness. Co-

know — comparative shopping." Pandolf has been at that location for about 2 years. He notices no big increase over last year, but then he did not buy as much stock in 1982. "No complaints," he

says.

At Mr. S. Leathers, Alan Selby reports wholesale business up, but retail is down a bit. "We've taken on an extra person here, and we're still very busy, thank God." Selby says last-minute buyers make up a large portion of his patrons. Mr. S. was established on 7th Street in June of 1979. Selby says what little decorating he will do will be in his leather shop at the Eagle.

But perhaps Alan Selby's most memorable event of the season will have been contracting double pneumonia. After being hospitalized a short time, he was taken home and handcuffed to his bed to prevent him from coming to work. A true Folsom Man will seek out any excuse...

Phil Henway

Gays Share in Oroville Protest

Mallory says the same is true for construction in the town — outside speculators have built half-empty shopping centers and residential tracts without commensurate growth of local industry, and with the lumber industry at a standstill. "Butte County is one of the most depressed in the state," Blacks and youth most affected.

Mallory, 47, works in the seasonal canning industry three months of the year with nine months "vacation." He moved from the Bay Area because "I need the earth. I felt more isolated and alienated in San Francisco" where there were two stories and several blocks of concrete "before I hit dirt. I felt cut off."

Doug came out to his neighbors "against my will." A 14-year-old boy who was "just staying at my house as a guest" had pressed him, "Are you Gay?" Mallory was truthful, but when the boy told his friends, some of them could not handle it.

He's suffered name calling, minor vandalism, broken windows on an old car. But Mallory also says he's received "support from most of my neighbors."

He moved to Oroville six years ago, enjoys the wild flowers on Table Mountain, the olive and orange trees, the Feather River, the nearby Sierras, but he admits he's also "frustrated by so many Gay people here under wraps."

The nearest Gay bar is in Chico, "a roundtrip of 30 miles," "a long way to go for a beer," he says, but adds defensively, "Sex isn't everything."

When some 1500-2000 people marched through

downtown Oroville Saturday afternoon protesting Nazi activity and racism there, Mallory began with the large Gay and Lesbian contingent at the back of the march, but his friends collected him to join the front of the march with other citizens of Oroville. The Parents of South Oroville, who had been assailed for inviting "outsiders," wanted to show in numbers their local support.

Five buses plus people in car pools had come from the Bay Area, including one Lesbian/Gay bus of some 42 people and another, predominantly so, from Oakland. Many local groups participated, including the Coalition for Human Rights, Alice B. Toklas Memorial Democratic Club, local unions, District 8 Democratic Club, Berkeley students, Workers World and the Spartacist League and CISPES against U.S. intervention in El Salvador. Banners were held by Black and White Men Together, Solidarity/Gay and Lesbian Liberation, and the Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Committee.

Tom Richards, wearing a "Debutantes for Human Rights" T-shirt, was one of 35 people who came on a bus from Seattle, a 20-hour trip. "We got a flat tire just outside of town," he said, also mentioning Seattle Mayor Charles Royer had endorsed the march and their effort to attend.

The Gay contingent was large and loud, perhaps 20 percent of the marchers, and chanting through the streets of Oroville, "Gay, Straight, Black, White, Same Struggle, Same Fight!" (Marchers passed the State Theater, which was billing Monsignor Missionary and Class Reunion,

but at midnight the Rocky Horror Picture Show.)

Behind them, like a street cleaning machine, keeping a safe distance separating themselves: Christians United for Oroville, a red cross on their banner.

After the march, a rally was held at Central Junior High School, where Nazi racist hate literature had been stuff-

keynote address to a standing ovation. "We've come from all over to say no to racism, and yes, Mr. Mayor, some of us are Lesbian and Gay, straight, old... Native American, Jewish, able and disabled... but we're all here united."

Rogers, who spoke also at the '82 Freedom Day Parade here, continued: "No one should have to face the filth of the Nazis and Klan alone. We must always present a united front."



Various Gay contingents marched in the anti-Klan protest in Oroville. BWMT was one. (Photo: Doug Young)

ed in seventh and eighth grade lockers previously. A youth who turned in evidence to local police about the leafletting was subsequently murdered, two Nazis arrested and charged.

Local mothers and one daughter spoke, along with many support speeches from other groups. One Black man who had graduated from that school and high school in Oroville complained of not being able to get a teaching job there after he earned his degree at U.C. Davis.

Gwendolyn Rogers of the Lesbian and Gay Focus of the All Peoples Congress made a

A Black poet read a list of martyrs that included Martin Luther King, Medger Evers, and Robert Kennedy, also George Moscone and Harvey Milk.

A San Francisco union speaker listed homosexuals and Gypsies along with Jews and others who died at the hands of the Nazis in concentration camps, not to mention the 35 million in the European front alone who died in World War II to stop the Nazis.

Sacramento Catholic Bishop Francis Quinn (not to be confused with San Francisco's Archbishop John Quinn) also

endorsed the march and rally, his spokesperson saying, "This is not Alabama in the 60's, this is California in the 80's, but it's the same struggle."

Gretta Miller of the Berkeley Gray Panthers and survivor of German Nazi concentration camps told how in Berlin "before 1933 when the Nazis had rallies we all laughed." People dismissed the threat saying, "They're just a few people, it's not in our area." She urged, "Please don't make the same mistake." Today it might be Oroville, Miller said, "tomorrow, San Francisco" or elsewhere. She prescribed unity vs. "fighting each other" and stressed educating youth "how to stand up for their rights."

George Burrows, a white resident of Oroville in sports coat and tie, spoke of acquaintances in town who had hoped for rain to discourage the march. He held up a glass of water. "You can stand out there and have this stuff poured on you all day, but the truth doesn't get watered down." The day was, in fact, bright and sunny.

And while the mothers of South Oroville sold delicious hot chili and barbecued chicken at the back of the school gymnasium, Liz Jacobs and Casey Brenner, who had come up on the Gay bus from the city and work against U.S. intervention in El Salvador, sat with their arms around each other in the midst of the crowd listening to the speeches.

Said Brenner afterwards, "I never thought I could feel comfortable sitting with my arm around my lover in a place like Oroville, but I did." She credited the strong Gay presence in the march for engendering the warm feeling of unity among the rally crowd.

Konstantin Berlandt

KS Diagnosed, Takes Life

(Continued from Page 1)

Young said their Thursday evening conversation touched on suicide. Herbaugh said "I don't know what is worse, facing the medical tests or facing death."

THE LONER

Herbaugh arrived in San Francisco four years ago from Seattle. He was a graduate of the University of Washington in horticulture. Up until four months ago he was employed at the Emporium said Young, as a floral designer. He never liked his job; had been laid off a few months ago, and he was drawing unemployment. He came from a broken home; he had no use for his step-father and his step-brothers and sisters. Said Young, "He never spoke fondly of his family." He was a high school jock and often wore his letterman's jacket.

For the past 18 months he had been spending four to five nights a week at the 8th

and Howard baths. Young said he took on all comers and was regarded as hot sex. He would never trick with anyone more than once. It was not uncommon for him to stay all night.

Herbaugh smoked a lot of dope — all day long according to Young. He snorted coke when he could afford it. He used acid, but seldom. No hard drugs however.

Young said Herbaugh didn't like himself. He was constantly worried about his weight; 5'8" tall, he weighed in around 180 lbs. He thrived on junk food. He was painfully shy, "almost a social cripple" said Young, who often tried to draw him out. His three roommates didn't even know him; and it had come to pass that Herbaugh had agreed to leave the Clayton Street flat by the end of December. He had no medical insurance.

He said to Young before he left, "Maybe this wouldn't

have happened if I had like myself more."

Herbaugh returned home, and his roommates said he was very busy moving things around, packing things up. They sensed nothing amiss.

At 12:30 AM Herbaugh wrote his farewell note to his friend Allen, his roommates, and his family. He stuffed a rope inside his jacket and walked six or seven blocks into Golden Gate park.

In a secluded glen — amid the shrubs and plants he loved and couldn't have in the urban asphalt jungle — he found a sturdy overhead limb and ended his life. His body was not found until the next afternoon. Even his final wish — that his body be donated to science — was thwarted: rigor mortis had set in, making the corpse useless.

Young, deeply moved by his friend's death, saw in it a fitting justice. "There was no bitterness in Richard... no 'why me?' How considerate of him not to burden anyone any more than he already had."

In the last two weeks, recalled his neighbor and friend, Richard was living in the fast side of the fast lane — with a total disregard for the health of others.

"He wasn't a person to rise to the occasion. He didn't want medical advice to get well; he wanted medical advice to confirm his decision."

It's not a question of the right way or the wrong way to handle it mused Young. "There's a sort of poetry in the ending. He lived his life alone, he died alone."

★ ★ ★

A coroner's report revealed the following day that Herbaugh's cancer had not metastasized but in fact was localized to the sole spot on his gum. But Richard Brian Herbaugh had had enough. He had found more sex and action in San Francisco than fills the lives of a dozen men. However, he never found the love that only he saw himself capable of.

Untapped. Worn out. The alabaster skin of his face turning red and puffy, he had had enough... of a life too full and not full enough. ■

Richard Herbaugh's Suicide Note

Greetings family and friends:

Act 2, Scene IV: the curtain closes. Thank-you, everyone, thank you.

I feel like I am in a giant stadium on the 20 yard line. No lights, no sounds and no one to touch.

I have longed to love and be loved but I never saw it, heard it or felt the wonderful things love brings.

But folks please don't disappear for I love you all and be assured that I am at rest.

I can no longer stand the pain. My head constantly hurts, my gut is never still and I can not stand the pressure. I am weak and no one to touch, to hold, to cry on. Oh my loneliness. The void. I sigh.

Offer my body to science for K.S. study only. Maybe they can conquer this evil soon.

Mother I love you very much. Please keep faith and stop drinking. Be assured this is best.

Dad, Roger, Mel & Donelda I love you and God Bless you all.

Michael & George: I love you both. Be there for each other, you'll need it. Keep things going for me. Talk to Jeff about my project.

Sean: May you find help and truth in your travel through the stars. You also talk to Jeff, they're all yours. Good luck and Blessed Be!

Stephan: Please give Allen my Christmas present, it is under the tree on the floor. Thank-you much. I love you both (Sean and you). Good luck and Happy Drags.

Allen: Thank you & I love you. Take care.

Things go on, as they must.

Dr. Bill thanks you for being so kind. Good luck.

Sincerely
Richard



The Lesbian/Gay Chorus along with the Gay Men's Chorus sang their hearts out Sunday night at Nourse Auditorium. A Christmas Eve program is scheduled for Friday the 24th.

(Photo: Rink)

Supes Vote AIDS Funds

The San Francisco Board of Supervisors voted at their Monday meeting to fund four AIDS programs. It was the second and final vote on the measure.

The legislation originally offered by Supervisor Harry Britt requested \$370,000. The Board voted \$180,000 for 1982, and the Department of Health will get \$270,000 in 1983 for additional research.

S.F. General Hospital's AIDS Clinic was targeted to receive \$42,000. The Shanti Project (a hospice) will receive \$32,000; the KS Foundation, \$48,000; and the enteric diseases project (parasites) of the Department of Health will get \$58,000.

The total package was more than originally had been sought.

The vote was unanimous, and Supervisor Britt's office spokesman Dana Van Gorder said his office was pleased

that Mayor Feinstein had recognized the severity of the problem in the city's Gay male community. ■

Gay Radio on KGO

This week David Lamble presents George Birimisa — playwright — who wrote *Pogey Bait*, and also the Poetry Circle of the Gay/Lesbian Writers Network. Saturday, December 25, 7 to 10 p.m.

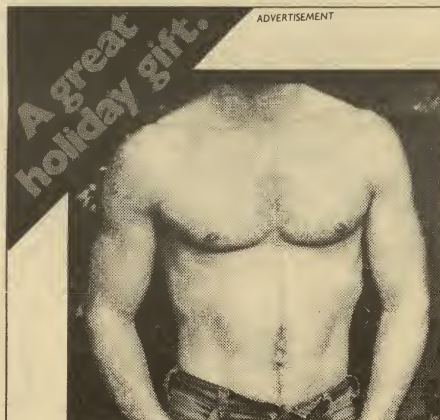
Sunday's show (7-8 p.m.) is a discussion with Gay painter Gerald Linder and Gay senior Ted Rolfs. From 8 to 10 p.m. volatile activist Gerry Parker will speak on the Gay political agenda for the 80's. Commented *Bay Area Reporter* editor Paul Lorch, "If Gerry gets going — as I suspect he will — you won't even need a radio. Just open your window."

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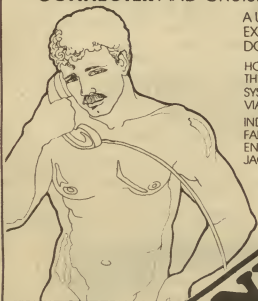
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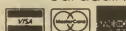
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POLITICS AND PEOPLE

The Politics of the Veto



WAYNE FRIDAY



Mayor Dianne Feinstein at her now famous press conference vetoing Harry Britt's "live-in lover" registration for benefits. (Photo: Rink)

Mayor Dianne Feinstein's recent veto of Harry Britt's "domestic partners" legislation, disappointing as it was to many, shouldn't have come as such a surprise. The Mayor has already begun her reelection campaign and the upcoming campaign no doubt played a large part in that veto. While I don't doubt that Feinstein had "serious problems" with the legislation because of technical inadequacies and ambiguities in it (not "as a comment on any lifestyle," you understand), the real reason for the veto was political. Among those who stayed well past midnight at the mayor's Lyon Street home a couple of nights before the veto, discussing what the hell to do about Britt's plan, was the mayor's recently hired campaign manager, Clint Reilly. While it has been pretty much determined that the rest of those at the mayor's midnight meeting favored letting it become law without signing the so-called "live-in lover" legislation (or at least letting it become law without a mayoral signature) I am told that Clint Reilly was the lone advisor who privately favored a veto.

Reilly, who ran Quentin Kopp's campaign against Feinstein four years ago, knows that the area where the mayor is weakest politically is with the city's conservative voters. Simple - veto the proposal which was widely touted as a piece of "pro-Gay" legislation, pick up a few points with the segment of the city that still can't handle the emergence of the Gay community as a political force, and hope for the best come election day next year. After all, where can the Gay and Lesbian community go anyway? Certainly not with Quentin Kopp or Wendy Nelder, the two most likely Feinstein opponents next year.

The mayor has close to a year to repair the damage, appoint a couple of Gays to office in the coming months, point out that she has been "one of the first people to speak out for Gay rights in

this city," remind the Gay and Lesbian community that both Kopp and Nelder voted against the controversial legislation — not once, but twice — and where will the Gay vote go next year? It could all backfire, however, if as many hope, a Dick Hongisto, or maybe a Jack Molinari, or maybe even Art Agnos decided to pick up the pieces. Not likely to happen, but I know Gays and Lesbians by the score that are waiting for Dick Hongisto to say the word. One seasoned politico told me last week that if Hongisto, Feinstein and Nelder were to fight it out next year, he would bet money that Nelder

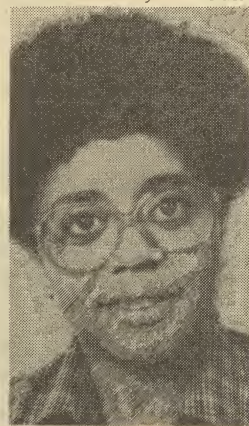
go with either Nelder or Kopp.

A number of long-time Feinstein allies in the Gay community tell me that regardless of who runs against her, they are now finished with Feinstein. One Lesbian ally of the mayor told me, "Frankly, the legislation is not that good and the fact that she vetoed it doesn't bother me as much as the manner in which she did it — she led us all to believe she would sign it and then threw it in our face without the slightest hint of what she was really up to." Another well-known Lesbian supporter of Feinstein's told me, "I've always found a reason to defend her, but I have had it with Dianne now."

On the other hand, a number of Gays I have spoken with seem less disappointed with the mayoral veto. They prefer to believe, as I think I do, that the mayor indeed had reservations with the legislation. I believe that she had problems with it, but I don't believe these concerns were what caused her to veto it — that decision was made after speaking with Clint Reilly and taking a look at the opposition that the Catholic Church and the Black ministers were building up. The mayor's statement said that the legislation was "becoming an instrument of division and dissent in our city." It seems to me that the "division and dissent" were caused, in large part, by the public lobbying of Archbishop John Quinn and his disgustingly phony mouthpiece, Rev. Miles Riley (now there's one for you), and the others in the religious community who made the issue of this.

Others say that Supervisor Harry Britt put another one over on us. One supervisor secretly told me that "this is the way Britt operates — another time bomb about every six or eight months keeps him where he is" and wondered to me when Britt "would pull his next one." Last Wednesday's Dick Nolan

(Continued on next page)



Guvern Craig — nowhere to go — will run Milk Club for a third term.

and Hongisto would be in the run-off. The reasoning being that although both the *Chronicle* and the *Examiner* wrote glowing editorials praising Feinstein's "political courage" by the veto, and since, as it certainly appears, she buckled to pressure from the archbishop and other religious groups, where would these conservative groups go if Quentin Kopp or Wendy Nelder were to announce against the mayor? You can bet your mayoral veto that they would kiss off Dianne Feinstein and



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POLITICS

(Continued from previous page)

column in the *Examiner* hit it pretty much on the nose when he said "Clint (Reilly) must know that however Gays may grumble they have no place to go in a mayoralty other than with Dianne, and it will do them no good to sulk. Since its moderate support that Feinstein needs, that veto is a sight more practical than brave." For one of the few times in the years I have been reading him, I agree with Dick Nolan.

★ ★ ★

Democratic Assemblywoman Maxine Waters telling MECLA in Los Angeles that the real reason of the failure to pass AB1 is that closeted Gay Republicans in the legislature won't support it. That is a cheap shot and the Assemblywoman knows it . . . There are more than enough Democrats in both houses to pass the Agnos pro-Gay legislation if Waters and the rest of the Democratic leadership could line their fellow Democrats up (as for Waters' insinuation that there are Gay Republicans in the legislature who "sit in the decision-making arenas," I don't know of any Republicans who are Gay, but there are a couple of closet cases in the Democratic Party that I wish she would help spring loose). If the Democratic-controlled Assembly and Senate can't pass AB1, don't blame it on the minority Republicans — an old, but tired political trick, Maxine.



Art Agnos thinking of running for mayor?

Although Supervisor Quentin Kopp is getting a lot of good press for helping convince the National Football League bring the '85 Super Bowl to the Bay Area, NFL Commissioner Pete Rozelle credits Dianne Feinstein and reportedly told a mayoral aide via phone the other day to congratulate the mayor and "tell her all her hard work has paid off" . . . Coalition for Human Rights (CHR) co-chair Pat Normal reportedly wants to run for Supervisor in 1984 and has called a few people seeking advice . . . California Senator Alan Cranston has made "a definite decision to run" and will announce his candidacy on February 2 in press conferences in Washington, New Hampshire, and Los Angeles . . . Rising Democratic stars in the U.S. Senate, Paul Tsongas (MA) and Gary Hart (CO) set to address the CDC convention in April on the Queen Mary in Long Beach.

Some are telling me that Assemblyman Art Agnos is reconsidering his previous decision not to be a candidate

for mayor in 1983 — watch this one (does Supervisor Harry Britt's recent move to the Polk Street area — into Agnos' Assembly district, have any meaning in all of this? Just asking. . .).

Doris Ward's City Hall aide, Brandy Moore running against Randy Stallings for president of the Toklas club. Toklas officials are predicting that Stallings will win this one in a walk; meanwhile, at the Harvey Milk Club there is some talk of giving Gwenn Craig the title of President Emeritus (seems Gwenn wants to run again — her third term — and no one wants to cause any dissension by running against her) so that one is already settled . . . Speaker Willie Brown giving freshman Tom Hayden an important, high-visibility position in the Assembly by appointing him vice-chair of the Revenue and Taxation Committee, a position Brown himself held.



Tom Hayden taken care of by Willie Brown.

This column was the first anywhere to predict that Governor Brown would appoint his cousin Hal Brown to replace Barbara Boxer on the Marin Board of Supes (and why are the Marin liberal Democrats getting so upset about this — I mean, who do they want, Paul Chignell???) . . . S.F. Demo Chair Agar Jaicks telling everyone he no longer wants the job as Chairperson of the party . . . Governor Brown, incidentally, getting high marks for the quality of his appointments to both the state Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals — surprising even some of his long-time critics.



Agar Jaicks reportedly giving up Demo County chairmanship.

Let me take this opportunity to wish the best of holiday greetings to the many people who help with this column. Since the *Reporter* went weekly last year, the chore has been a bit heavier. To the many who give me items (the good ones and the not-so-good), my editor Paul Lorch and typesetter Tony Perry who help so often, and to others like Dick Hongisto and Elizabeth, Hadley Roff, Doris Ward and staff, Mike Hennessey, Connie O'Connor, Dennis Collins, Gerry Parker and Billy, John van Heusden and Paul Hardman, Dick Pabich, Jim Rivaldo, Bill Maher, Del Dawson, Duke Armstrong, Peter Nardoza, Gwenn Craig, Randy Stallings, Ron Huberman, Mayor Feinstein, Herb Caen, Jesse Hamlin, Cleve Jones, Jack and Louise Molinari, Jack Davis, Louise Renne, Con Murphy, Randy Alfred, Marcia Smolens, Claire Pilcher, Tom Horn, Harry Britt and staff, Allan Johnson, Allen White, Bill Kraus, Bob Bacci, Paul Boneberg, Bob Little, Nancy Walker, Evelyn Hsu, Jo Daly, Judge Morgan, Judge Sing, Carol Ruth Silver, Phil Burton, Arlo and Helen Smith, Larry Eppinette, Anne Kronenberg, John Robertson, Mark Friese, Bette Bonko, Chris Bowman, Carole Migden, Milton and Caroleene Marks, Jeff Brown, everyone at the Milk, Toklas and Stonewall clubs, as well as the CRIR people — and to everyone else who makes politics fun in this city: the best of holiday wishes and a better New Year.

Wayne Friday



Alice's Christmas at attorney Jerry Berg's home. (l. to r.) Bob Basker, Vaughn Taylor, Supervisor Richard Hongisto, Elizabeth Hongisto, and Sal Rosselli. (Photo: Rink)

Happy Holidays!



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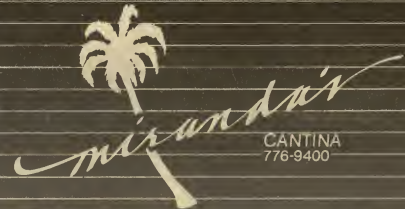
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The Ever-Growing Bay Area Reporter

A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY AND
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 FROM THE MANAGEMENT AND STAFF OF THE BAY AREA REPORTER



G BAY AREA REPORTER GREATER BAY NEWS

AN JOSE SANTA CLARA CUPERTINO SUNNYVALE REDWOOD CITY PALO ALTO MONTEREY PLEASANT HILL VALLEJO BERKELEY WALNUT CREEK CAMPBELL FREMONT

OAKLAND

Holiday Poesy

NEZ PAS

PERPENSION (A Nose(y) Idea?)

Harken, everybody around our Bay.
Acknowledge us along your way.
People in Oakland are a cut above,
Pulsating with warmth, kindness and love.
You may expect events, different and new;

Happenings, functions, and soirees, too!
Ollie's has music and stage plays, live;
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Dinner and dance at Bench and Bar... and more!
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Yes, and Lancers will remove a growl or a frown!
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Try the White Horse to top off your day.
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Always to please you, we're all above par!
Look also to Big Mama's, In-Between, and Turf Club,
Laugh it up at the Walnut Creek Hub.

VERBUM SAPIENTI (A Dossier Nose?)

Michael and Nova Lei Spears have asked that I present this financial statement from their Thanksgiving Benefit for the Oakland Pom Pons, held at the Lake Merritt Hotel last November 22.

62 persons including entertainers at \$7 ea.
for buffet \$434.00
Collected at door 290.00
Collected at Lake Lounge 100.00

Contribution to Pom Pons 290.00
To Man 2 Man 100.00

Balance to be paid by Michael & Nova \$434.00

They would like to thank everyone involved in the success of this function, and they look forward to a bigger and better presentation next year. Also, special thanks and recognition must be given to all the entertainers who donated their time and professional energies to an overwhelming success of the entertainment segments.

LIMAE LABOR (An Amended Nose?)

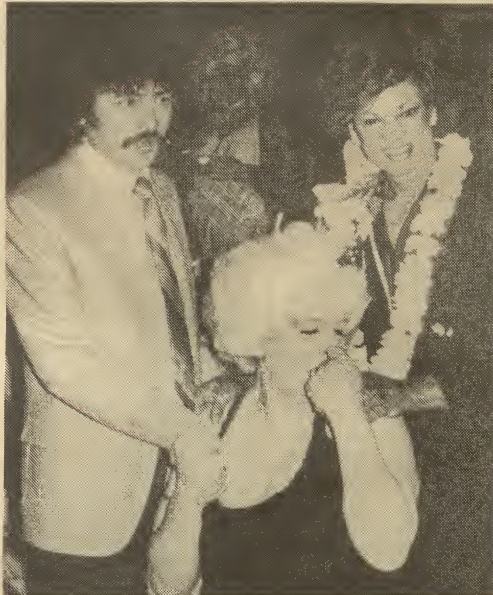
At a recent meeting of the A.C.I.E. Privy Council, it was proposed to make a change in Article II, of its Constitution. In part, the original Article reads "... shall promote functions for the purpose of raising funds for charitable organizations whom the A.C.I.E. deems worthy of such support."

Briefly stated, they wish to add:

...establish and maintain a building fund to be used solely for buying a building for a community center for all citizens of Alameda County who believe in the freedom of sexual preference...

...twenty-five percent of all profits of any function using the name of A.C.I.E. will be deposited into a separate bank account, to be used solely for the community center...

...these funds shall not be used for any other purpose, unless A.C.I.E. is dissolved or ceases to function (Article I, Section 4)...



"Fairy" kisses the hand of A.C.I.E. Empress Stephanie while Emperor Frumpy (left) offers support at this week's presentation of S.F. Emperor and Empress candidates. (Photo: Rink)

...the General Assembly shall select a Board of Directors to administer said funds, and they will be responsible to the Privy Council and the General Assembly. The Board will be comprised of five members, with three

members constituting a quorum...

...said Board shall be elected for a tenure of one year, elected by the General Assembly...

Bullish Year End

The Brave Bull at 701 S. 9th in Modesto will have its annual New Years Party in tandem with Little Steve's Birthday Party on December 31, 82 at 9 PM. There will be a complementary buffet, complementary cocktails, and beer and wine, (all you can drink), a champagne fountain, burlesque dancers and entertainment all evening, starring popular locals such as Stubby from Sonora, and Amazon. This is a closed party. Admission is \$10 in advance and \$15 at the door. ■

Diablo MCC

The Gay Rap Support Group of the Diablo Valley MCC will discuss "The Fruits of Our Labors: 1982" at their weekly meeting on December 31. The group meets each Friday night from 8 to 9:30 PM at 1818 Colfax in downtown Concord. Info: 827-2960 ■

★ ★ ★
Complement your Christmas Spirit with a Christmas Smile... and us it for the entire year. Love. ■

Nez

SAN JOSE: FROM THE ROSEGARDEN

Whose Paper?

TOM ROGERS

Thanks to the money / food / toy-raising efforts of Casa and the distribution co-ordination of the Billy DeFrank Lesbian and Gay Community Center, Christmas will have been much brighter for children of Gay Parents locally.

With collection barrels full of toys and food, and money raised at functions such as Casa's annual Christmas Ball four weeks ago, this city's Gay Community demonstrated its Christmas spirit enthusiastically and generously.

And proof that the spirit of Christmas comes from a bottomless — uh, make that a fathomless — well, there was plenty of it left to spread among the adults in this community.

Some of the notable parties around San Jose included a show at Toyon on the 12th that sported a large cast to entertain a packed house for the benefit of Casa. Later the same day, the Watergarden threw its annual Employees Christmas Party, and later still, five local luminaries (one of them barely out of his hospital jammies) threw their 20th annual Christmas party at Bill Kiley's place for two hundred of their closest friends. Last Saturday (the 18th), the first annual Director's Holiday Party and Auction was held for the benefit of the BDL&G Community Center at the home of Frank O'Reilly and David Treadwell,

sort of kicking off the final week of Christmas Parties that were going off around town like a pan-full of fired-up popcorn. Empress Darlene and Emperor Dennis auctioned off a neat pile of goodies — including a bike donated by Linda Walden.

Saturday afternoon was perhaps the campiest party this week. An eight-page, slick-covered and betaselled invitation went out to a few hundred San Joseans to join Herman Griego, popular Strip bartender, and Main Street for a "Black and White Party." Entertainment was provided by "Diane and her Dykettes," a camp drag trip featuring Little Michael, Keoki Margaret Dumont and Ms Valdez, and "Best of Both Worlds," an increasingly popular rock band. Those who

didn't show up in tuxedos did show up in sort of interesting facsimiles thereof. (For example, yet another well-lighted appearance by Lanny Revor and Michael Duke and Morgan aka La Contessa Sofia De La Stockton). The bar was decorated to the rafters with floral sprays, white flocked Christmas trees and black and white everything to carry out the party's theme, and the guests were treated to champagne and caviar. Great party.

Denny Beller and John Culp threw a very black leather birthday party all Saturday night for their buddy Duane. He turned 21 on December 24, which might explain why this was his first real birthday party. Christmas was blocked out for that occasion, to pay tribute to this hot (and advanced) leatherman.

★ ★ ★
We have a new organization in town. Founded by Lanny Revor, he calls it "Stockton Avenue Sluts Anonymous" (SASA). He

(Continued on next page)



Bill Knox and Morgan, Phoenix's contribution to our holidays, show it off at the "Black and White Party." (Photo: T. Rogers)

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Holy Communion
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(Potluck)

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Rev. Jodi Safier
Pastor

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Metropolitan Community
Church

Friday, December 24
9 pm-11 pm
Dessert Party (Potluck) &
Tree Trimming Party

11 pm-Midnight
Candlelight
Holy Communion

4986 Fairfax Ave.
(off of Hugh St.)
533-4848
Rev. Rick Weatherly
Pastor



SAN JOSE

(Continued from previous page)

says that he and the other members to day have not really decided whether the name should be Sluts, Strippers or Sleaze, but that indecision is appropriate, or so I'm told. The club's purpose is to be as politically incorrect as possible. Anybody can be a member and everybody gets to be on the Board of Directors, to assure total chaos. I can't decide whether it's a badly needed source of community comic relief or some kind of Punk political party. If they play their cards right they could be both.

THE BEAT GOES ON AND ON AND ON

On the editorial page of the last issue of *Our Paper* an item was published to "correct several misrepresentations" in one of my recent columns. I had pointed out the failure of *Our Paper* to lend coverage to the formation of the Santa Clara Valley Coalition for Human Right's new Legal Defense Committee and Fund. The last thing I want to do is bore you with details, but rest assured that the column was not "full of inaccuracies," nor did it contain "misquotes and falsehoods," as *Our Paper* would have their readers believe. The unidentified writer of the editorial, who used nearly a quarter page to chip away at both this column and the SCVCHR, never did explain why they had devoted so little coverage to the formation of the LDF until the issue containing their editorial. The editorial points out that they ran a brief announcement on page two of their November 10th issue that was based upon a press release from SF Supervisor Harry Britt's office.

A regular plethora of information about the formation of the LDC ran in the *B.A.R.*



SF and SJ Emperors and Emperors at Casa's Christmas Ball. (PHOTO: T. Sahl)

over a period of weeks. Since they "read the *B.A.R.* faithfully," they might have demonstrated interest in the subject (if not in the community) and made a few phone calls of their own. The editorial erroneously states, incidentally, that I'm relatively new both to journalism and to San Jose Gay politics. For the record I have nearly nine years of journalism behind me. In fact, I was covering international politics and general news in a foreign capital for a five-edition-daily newspaper during the early sixties, while she, by report, was teething on her first Libertarian Party primer. As far as my time spent on the local scene is concerned, I've lived in the South Bay for seven years, and had read all of the material suggested as a reading list for me by the editorial.

Frank O'Reilly, responding to *Our Paper's* comment about the failure of the SCVCHR to send them a press release, said "I didn't send them a press release because everything they've done in the past two years in regards to the Coalition has been negative.

"My allegiances are to the Coalition," he said. "and I'm not going to do anything, and that includes sending them press releases to give them further opportunity to draw

the Coalition into a negative energy space.

"If they've had a change of heart, then they need to let us know," said O'Reilly.

★ ★ ★

In my last report I mentioned that Winn Crannell said that the old Lambda Association Rally Committee would still function for this year's Rally. Among the members of that committee she listed Sal Accardi, but declined to identify the proposed chair of the committee. When Accardi returned from a trip to Russian River last week, I asked him about his participation on that committee. He said he was on no such committee, and that to his knowledge no such Rally committee yet existed. He did say that he was one of a group headed by Roger Lee, formerly aide to Mayor-elect Iom McNery, who are actively soliciting participation in a new political action committee which might also handle the Rally. Mr. Lee reportedly will invite about 75 people, to include McNery and council member Susan Hammer, to his home for a party to explore, or at least to introduce this PAC. More on this as it happens.

Go hug your pet again under the tree.

Tom Rogers



To put this Christmas angel on the top of your tree you'd need a redwood. It's entertainer Big Jimmy, who keeps his props in his G-string... lipstick, shoehorn, suitcase, dinner for two, and a dozen applications of Summer Blonde, in case the store runs out. (Photo: T. Sahl)

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B.A.R. INTERVIEW

Bette Gets Down... To Business

— or —

Lo, How "The Rose" E'er Blooming

by Steve Warren

I was a self-described "businesslike" Bette Midler who met San Francisco's press corps for a carefully timed 30 minutes prior to the opening of *De Tour* for seven sold out shows at the Golden Gate Theatre.

Sedate — perhaps sedated — through most of the session, Bette still managed to flash on most of her famous moods, from glee through outrage — but not outrageousness. "Miss M," her stage persona, peered out mischievously through Bette's eyes at times, but she was never allowed to come out and speak to us.

Television reporters dominated the questioning — in the pecking order of these things the Gay press doesn't have very big peckers — and would-be anchorpersons tend to ask bland, "safe" questions.

Gays know all there is to know about Bette anyway — I think we're born knowing it — so unless we can get down to the real dish in a loose atmosphere there's not much hope of restocking the lore store where she's concerned.

Several questions concerned Bette's fall from divinity in *Jinxed*, one of the year's major movie flops. "I didn't accomplish dick with that picture!" she admitted, after waxing rhapsodic about the challenges of movie-making ("...you meet this pack of pi-i-i-igs and try to be as civilized as possible... They throw down the gauntlet at you every time you go in to make one, and they dare you to finish it and they dare you to have a hit..."). "All I managed to do was stay alive."

After her much publicized conflicts with producer Herb Jaffe, director Don Siegel and "leading man — I use the word advisedly" Ken Wahl, she merely described them as "very rude... They had press conferences about how vile I was to work with and it hurt my feelings very much... I had made a big effort, you know; I broke my back, I worked like a dog, and they just didn't want to work that hard."

At one point she called *Jinxed* "the little movie that couldn't... They think they can turn chicken shit into chicken salad..."; but later she said it's "the kind of picture that people are gonna adore on cable television and they'll say, 'Gee, it wasn't so bad.'" She appeared close to tears when she spoke of the money wasted on the movie: "That thing cost \$13 million. That they wanted to murder me personally is one thing, but for them to take that money that didn't even belong to them... You can't do that with money these days. It's unconscionable..."

Of her nervous breakdown at the conclusion of *Jinxed* she said, "I didn't do too well on that one... I just collapsed and let it wash over me."

Looking good at 37 from her bleached blonde hair to her Mario Valentino shoes, Bette seemed preoccupied with the aging process. At various times she made references to the changes that have come with age: "I'm older, but I don't think I'm any more sedate." "I'm a little

tougher, I think, but my heart is the same." "I used to have terrible highs and lows but I don't anymore. I think it's a kind of evening out process that comes with age. It's one thing I really am enjoying about being a little older — I don't have those horrible mood swings anymore."

She explained why she's hit the (peroxide) bottle again after a brief "brown" period: "I felt kinda dowdy and I thought... people won't want to see a mouse on the stage. They want to see a peacock or a flamingo."

In more serious moments Bette revealed an almost scholarly interest in what her fans do see on stage, beyond the songs and *shtick*. She said she's looked into "certain forms of show business that have died... certain kinds of variety artists like jugglers and mimes and strange acts like (Le) Petomane... There are one or two things in (*De Tour*) that are indicative of the kind of research I've been doing in this cheesy area, this area of real, you know, like tacky show business... I think, 'Wow! I never saw anything

like that. I bet if I'm fascinated by that, somebody else would be fascinated by it too."

It's this attitude that has helped earn Bette her Gay following and allowed her in turn to play a major role in creating what we think of as "Gay culture." Most of today's younger Gays would never have heard of Sophie Tucker or the Andrews Sisters if Bette hadn't drawn on their old material.

Ignoring the openings offered by questions about her days at the Continental Baths, Bette was only drawn into talking about her Gay fans under the euphemism of the crowds that helped discover her: "Those early crowds are — they're still the best. They still are the most lively, I guess because they have the extra energy that comes from the idea of discovery and all that."

De Tour will probably resume in the spring. After a week's engagement at the Universal Amphitheatre in Los Angeles, Bette returns to the recording studio to finish "No Frills," the album she

(Continued on Page 23)

Butterfly Bette

by John F. Karr

For those who were there, a review can be so much jaw-flapping. For those who were not, it can be a case of sour grapes. But Bette Midler has been a Gay audience centerpiece since she rose, like Venus from the sea, from the steaming pools of a Gay bathhouse to international fame. As the greatest entertainer of her generation, each of her infrequent tours bear discussion. Bette is closer to her identity and dreams, more revealing of her full talent, when live on stage. Like many stage greats, she's just too big, too extreme, to be fully captured on film. And I wouldn't have missed her current tour if I'd had to hock my gonads to get in.

The opening night audience looked like it had been cast by Fellini. The shared excitement and expectation was heady. For many, a Midler concert is a shrine, a ritual. With several years between her appearances, the tension builds. The ovation that hit her entrance — in a pink Baby Snooks smock — could have lifted a fuelless Concorde over the ocean.

Bette was flying, and flying dirty, too. "Honey, you're gonna love it, riding in the back of my plane," she sang with full innuendo. "Some say it's too big, some say it's too old." If anyone was worried that Bette might have changed, gone Hollywood or whatever, they were immediately reassured. Even her hair seemed returned to normal — or whatever passes as normal with this gal.

No, there were no changes in Bette. Only a surprising, gratifying maturing of her powers along with a solidification of the various strands that have composed her identity into one glorious bauble named Bette. She presented the best concert I've seen her give, and I've seen them all. Just as the qualities of a fine wine can be recognized before its maturity, so have Bette's. Yet this evening was obviously maturity, with all elements fully blended. The disparate sources of her concerts — rock, musical com-

edy, vaudeville, Sophie Tucker — were assimilated so we saw not the original speaking through Bette, but the originals become Bette.

The talking introductions of Sophie Tucker, for instance, reappeared as a typically vulgar Bette monologue, leading not to a Tucker song, but a number in contemporary rock idiom about boobs and legs. This led to that staple of burlesque, the balloon dance. Bette's balloons were giant tits.

She had spoken of recreating Le Petomane's act (he "sang" employing flatulence). We may have been lucky she was unable to do that. But she sure brought fun, innocent vulgarity and some grace to her balloon bosoms.

This was only the beginning. Sanity was banished. Bette gave us Disco Dada, an homage to the disco era performed by four mermaids in motorized wheelchairs, including tightly synchronized unison choreography and instrumental solos for the mermaids on accordion, chopsticks and twirling tennis balls.

And then she slipped without a beat into Serious, with wrenching ballads, tears and croaking voice. She knows the madness is surface glitz, and spent more time on dramatic material, proving the depth of her ability. Still, the

(Continued on Page 23)



The girl just glowed at her press conference, and was partially upstaged by the smiles on her Valentino shoes. (Photo: Rink)

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HUMOR

Those Lost Your Lover Blues

and *How to Shake Them Away*

by Bob Leone

Illustration by Michael Goldberg

Suddenly half the furniture is gone, you can't find a sharp knife to save — or take — your life, and you're sleeping alone. The dust of battle has finally settled and a decent period of mourning has been observed, draped in bitter recriminations alternating with misty-eyed reminiscences of your first date, first fuck, first fight (pick one). But now the time has come to make the move back to Reality. First, take stock of your assets. If you find everything in working order open the front door just a crack. Yes, dear, that's the wide world rolling by without pause. What to do? Well you can slam the door, lock it, and go back to bed and listen to Boz Scaggs wail out "Harbor Lights" for the hundredth time, or you can steam out the wrinkles from face and clothes and go out for a look around. I thought I was ready for the latter

I first tried a certain address on Ritch Street. Not a real creative choice, but still exciting after all these years. The first indication that maybe I was out of my depth was when the cute, young attendant (are there any other kind?) asked me, reasonably enough, "Would you like a room or a locker?" and I answered "Yes." The check-in process was completed eventually but in my depressed state all I could see inside were cigarette burns in the carpet and the waterstained walls, not to mention waterstained customers. I was bummed out, not my usual reaction on entering a bath-

house. I trailed around for some time in an ill-fitting towel and wound up reading a month-old copy of *Time Magazine*. I was unaware of it but my body was sending out vibrations which said, "Stay away from this one; not only won't you get any sex but you'll probably be treated to a long, intense monologue on a subject in which you have no interest."

The vibes did their job until another die-hard magazine reader sat down next to me. He was an attractive blond with muscular thighs. The perfect opportunity, I thought, to work on my rusty conversational skills. "Do you come here often on Saturdays?" I ventured. "Today's Tuesday," he replied with an odd look. "Oh is it," I said. "I have trouble remembering what day it is ever since my lover and I broke up a month ago." I continued, unable to stop myself. "Oh," replied the blond, continuing to thumb through a magazine. His intense interest spurred me on. Nothing short of a muzzle could have stopped me. "We used to spend Saturdays sleeping late and making love; it was wonderful," I gushed. "Then in the afternoon we might smoke a joint and walk down to Haight St. and get something to eat. Do you like the Grand Piano? We used to eat there all the time; they have great coffee and sometimes the . . ." Slowly those luscious thighs began to inch their way down the carpeted bench, need I add, away from me. "Excuse me," he said, looking across the room, "but I think I see someone I know." "It sure seems like Saturday," I called after him. "My lover and I . . ." but he had already disappeared into the dim mists.

A good movie might provide a way back to the world of the living, I thought. That way I could be with peo-

ple but not have to attempt anything so farfetched as light conversation. A Barbara Stanwyck double bill was at the Castro and *Clash by Night* co-starring Paul Douglas and Marilyn Monroe was on first. I picked up a box of vanilla bon bons and settled into a good seat. Barbara's always been a pretty gutsy lady,

time Carol took a break and I wandered over to the bar for another Bud which by this time I didn't need. "It's nice to see some of you boys here for a change," the woman behind the bar said to me as she opened my beer. I smiled at her and headed over to one of the small tables and sat down. Presently a voice off to the side asked me for a match and I looked around to see one of the five other men in the place standing next to me. "Sorry, I don't smoke," I replied, trying to focus. "How do you like the show?" I asked smoothly. "It's really funny," he said. "I'm surprised, though; guess I expected a Lesbian to be more serious about humor." Ignoring the political implications of this latest statement I trudged on, I knew not where. "Do you come here often?" I asked, using the familiar if not successful line. "Only when I want to cruise," he replied earnestly. Cruise? Here? Men? To each his own, I thought and grinning crookedly I was ready to throw caution to the wind but not without reviewing what I had learned since getting out of bed and shutting off the record player; don't talk about



I thought. Maybe she had enough balls to get us both through the evening without slitting our wrists. Wrong again it turned out. Early on in the movie Stanwyck's response to Marilyn's question as to why she has returned home after all these years is to drop her cigarette into her coffee cup and flare smoke from her nostrils while delivering this gem, "You only come home when there's no place else to go." It got a howl from the audience but it didn't cheer me up much, especially when I thought about moving back in with Mom and Dad. I probably wouldn't even get my own key.

Boz Scaggs and bed were beginning to look good again, but once home, my neighbor John induced me to go out with him and have a few beers. And what better place to forget a man, all men even, than Amelia's? Carol Roberts was performing that night to a crowd of about 75 women and 6 men. She did funny song parodies (Aloe Vera to the tune of "Hello Dolly"), Lesbian jokes, jokes about the high prices in natural food stores, fag jokes. I was starting to feel pretty good by the

your ex-lover, keep the conversation in the here and now, forget about Barbara Stanwyck, she never did you any good although you could learn something about drinking from her as long as your stomach held out and you did not have to get up for work the next morning and . . . My mental wanderings were interrupted by the entrancing creature next to me. "Excuse me," he said, "there's a guy over by the bar that looks like he has a match; see ya." And with that he was gone. Guess I was just too slow on the upswing. One Bud too many can do that.

Strangely enough these harrowing experiences haven't gotten me down. Now that they're over I feel kind of relieved. The problem, as I see it, is that I rushed things a little bit. It's quite cozy in here with the phone unplugged and Boz singing. And I'm sure that the world can go on rolling by without me for a while longer. I'll shake off those blues next week. But when I do get out there again I would like to have a better opening line than "Do you come here often?"

BETTE MIDLER INTERVIEW

(Continued from Page 21)

started in October. A limited Broadway run is certainly not out of the question, but the East Coast leg of *De Tour* isn't set yet.

The Academy Awards will be given out on April 11 and Bette, who stole this year's show, said she's been invited back. "But I don't think I'm gonna go. How can I top that?" (I'll bet any amount she hasn't made alternative plans for the date. She just wants to be coaxed.)

Bette said she has two film projects "in what they call development" — one a John Guare script and the other a 40's musical she's owned the rights to for five years.

Whatever film she makes next, she insisted she's only going to act in it. "I don't want to be in charge. I don't like to be in charge. I'd like to find someone who is really brilliant and who wants to take the — I don't want to do that, I don't wanna be that person. It's too much work to have to do that and do the acting too. It's monumental... It's awful. You can't conceive of it."

She won't even demand script and cast approval. "I had that on (*Jinxed*)! I don't want any of that anymore, 'cause when you have the approvals then you really have

to do all the work. You really do! They turn to you and say, 'Well, what do you think?' and you say, 'I wanna go home, I need a martini.'"

It's been said that old entertainers never die — they just don't perform as well. Bette is already making noises about getting out of the business. "I think I'd like to be retired in ten years," she told the San Francisco press. "I'd like to teach, maybe... Shall I tell you my deepest desire? I'd like to be the Minister of Culture for these United States — or something in education, because I have a real feeling for that."

"When I was a kid I participated in a lot of festivals and situations that really helped interest kids in public speaking and drama and debate and that kind of thing. And I think that's a lost art. I think language arts are in not-good shape. And I'm interested in language. I'm fascinated by language and I'd like to fluff it up a little bit. I'd like to take part in education about language. Doesn't that sound odd?"

No, because even though "Miss M." covers her with enough layers of sleaze and glitter to create a "living lasagna" effect, Bette's fans have always known there was a woman of substance underneath. ■

Steve Warren

Bette has emerged transfigured.

★ ★ ★

She had her say, too. "San Francisco," she exulted, "where it's a city!"

"We're gonna be here a whole week. I guess that makes me qualify as your live-in lover," she quipped over our fated spousal rights bill. "We're gonna give you all the benefits we can."

She related her meeting with Queen Elizabeth, knowing this was a city and audience that understood royalty. "Sometimes this Queen business really brings me down," she confided. "It's so hard to keep Our Imperial Shit together."

The evidence of this show proves that as a concert performer, Bette's shit is as together as it can be. She joins, firmly, the short list of entertaining greats who appear only rarely. What a revelation this concert was. ■

John F. Karr

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One Man Multitudes

by John F. Karr

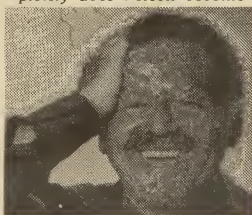
At a time of year when the thoughts of most people have been wafted by their Lord to a manger in Bethlehem, mine have been transfixed by a humble Jewish story teller (although that description, too, fits Jesus) telling of the poor little town of Kasrilevka in nineteenth century Poland.

The story teller is Sholem Aleichem. This pen name of Solomon Rabinowitz is a traditional Hebrew greeting meaning "Peace Be Unto You," a name which immediately conjures Aleichem's warm presence and dateless heritage. This Boswell-with-a-Bagel was born in Kiev in 1859, died in New York in 1916 and is most famous as the creator of Tevya the Dairyman whose story was retold by others as *Fiddler on the Roof*. Oft described as the Jewish Mark Twain, Aleichem does share that author's fascination with small town life and its people. He also speaks with aching warmth, compassionate understanding and biting wit.

Aleichem is having a nice holiday this year, and thereby brightening ours. The first translation of his wickedly funny and perceptive look at the foibles of the wealthy

clientele of a health spa, *Marienbad*, has just been published, and Nehemiah Persoff has brought his one man recreation of an evening with Sholem Aleichem to the Theatre on the Square.

And peace and prosperity come unto Mr. Persoff for such a gift. It's difficult to tell that these words were written by somebody else, so completely does Persoff become



the story teller. This is no staged reading, not even a recitation of a memorized work. It seems a completely spontaneous chat with a dear friend who's just arrived to dish the latest dirt.

Persoff has all the gifts of a fine actor — the mimicry, the voices, the joy and the tragedy. Most of all he has vision. Because he sees the entire town and its inhabitants, we see them. Imagine one man on stage, making visible

the multitudes of cinema. Persoff presents the village types — the rabbi, the shamos (the synagogue's sexton), the teacher, the housewife, the children — much in the way *Fiddler on the Roof* did, as an opening parade. But Persoff plays them all, and is especially exciting when they all talk at once. It's hilarious.

The stories spun elicit laughter and tears, because life is not only funny but difficult. These are moving stories presented within a brilliant yet self-effacing performance. It comes from the actor's heart, and that's a rare thing.

My only complaint is that foreign words are continually translated to Christian equivalents. This gives the idea that Jewish culture was patterned after Christianity. Ha, it's the other way around, if at all.

The unusual content of the material, the depth and universality of its feeling and the loving performance make a complaint moot. Sholem Aleichem died decades before I was born. For my money, though, he's appearing alive and well on stage at the Theatre on the Square, although some fellow named Nehemiah Persoff is getting all the credit.

**Nehemiah Persoff's
Sholem Aleichem
Theatre on the Square
Thru Jan. 2; 433-9500**

BACK TO BATON

Women's Voices... but of Chorus!

PHILIP CAMPBELL

It was cold and damp. If I'd had my druthers I thought I would have wanted a baritone whispering a capella in my ear rather than a concert celebrating women's voices singing in both of them. The happenings in McKenna Theater last Friday, however, picked me up and nourished my soul.

The San Francisco Lesbian Chorus is a sponsored project of the S.F. Women's Centers /Women's Building and this particular event, while being presented by the Chorus itself was also sponsored by the San Francisco State University Women's Center. These women hang together, it seems, and the results were clearly in evidence from the joyous performances and the ecstatic audience response.

Surprisingly, there were a goodly number of men in attendance, but there could have been more, for the message of the evening was never separatist. If anything, this was a humanist event that simply stressed the many roles of women in life; in the workplace, home life, politics, the arts and, yes, even in erotica.

The woefully inadequate program notes unfortunately make it almost impossible to mention specific contributors but this was not a show filled with 'star' turns anyway. It was a collective effort designed more as a sampler than a showcase.

Alternative Measures, a women's barbershop quartet opened the concert with a lively, well-rehearsed set. Their intricate harmonies and physical staging were fresh and appealing. They were

hilarious when they gave a delicious twist to an old standard with "Wait 'til Your Son Turns Nellie." And if Rodgers and Hammerstein weren't already dead, Alternative Measures would have killed them with their rendition of "I Enjoy Being a Dyke," forever laying that most blatant of sexist anthems to rest. Recognizable to me was Sally Gearhart singing a full throated baritone that was delightful.

Danica, pronounced "Dah-neet-sa," a 13-voice women's group singing Balkan music, closed the first half with a lengthy selection of 9 songs. The mood ranged from playful teasing to lamentation with lovely folk music that charmed and moved the audience to one of the biggest ovations of the evening. Danica has been together in one form or another for about ten years and it shows. Their commitment and musical values are strong.

Intermission proved to be a special treat. The best people watching in years. Let's face it, when was the last time a Gay man could mingle with so many Lesbians without a trace of suspicion on either side? Incidentally, another stereotype bites the dust; it is not just Gay men who have a "look." The next time Ms Gearhart writes something about clones she might take a look back to that night.

The performance continued with "Swingshift," a powerhouse quintet dedicated to feminist action. They percolated their way through an impressive set touching serious issues such as abortion and nuclear disarmament, while remaining musically interesting and entertain-

ing. Their sing-a-long version of "My Girl" was fun and affecting proving a perfect tonic to their more political material. I wish I could mention Swingshift's members by name but the woman in the black and gold trousers still deserves special note. That's the kind of voice I'd like to hear more of. Individually and collectively Swingshift cooks.

It was getting late when conductor Sondra C. Zambino and the 30 odd voice Lesbian Chorus took the stage. As it was, their appearance was a little too brief. Seems they were just getting on a roll when they concluded with their stirring finale; a medley ending with a fine song by Holly Near. Accompanied by two trumpets and piano, the Chorus moved me and everyone else to an ovation filled as much with affection as with admiration.

The Lesbian Chorus has its problems (the sopranos are pinched and poorly integrated) but even if the choral fabric is a bit ragged, the magic is there and they know how to 'sell' a song with love.

Director "Sonny" Zambino would probably bop me for saying this but she is thoroughly adorable. Radiating charisma and spunk, she has effectively welded a women's chorus that is always improving.

I left campus musing about the special warmth and appeal of the occasion. I may have been alone but I was hardly lonely. For the first time this year I felt a bit of that highly touted but seldom apparent "Holiday Spirit." It has little to do with material gifts. It's about people feeling good about one another, joining together in the dead of winter.

Thank you Ladies, for your gift of music and message of Love. Happy Holidays to all of us.

FROM FIFTH POSITION

2 Nutcrackers in 2 Days

KEITH WHITE

Thursday night, San Francisco Ballet's *Nutcracker* at the War Memorial Opera House (would the Wednesday opening night cast have been any better?); Friday night, opening night of Oakland Ballet's *Nutcracker* at the fabulous Paramount Theatre. I'm glad I saw the two productions back-to-back that way, as it provoked many new ideas about a ballet I thought I had seen far too many times already. Yet, as my regular readers know by now, I am particularly fond of the fairytale ballets, and seeing *Nutcracker* each year usually inspires in me the strongest degree of traditional Christmas spirit of the season.

The *Nutcracker* is the most atypical of the Imperial Russian ballets that are familiar to American audiences. It is the story of a young girl's vivid Christmas fantasy, act one outlining the events of the Christmas eve party at which Herr Drosselmeyer, the magical toy-maker, makes a gift of a toy *Nutcracker* to Clara, which is accidentally broken during the festivities. Act II is the fantasy which takes place in Clara's dreams that night. The ballet is unusual because very little dancing takes place in act one — the party — and all of the dances in act two, the dream, are fantasy divertissements of varying choreographic inspiration. The *Nutcracker* has been reorchestrated and tampered with by every company which has mounted it, and the two Bay Area productions I saw last week were as different as night and day.

San Francisco Ballet, the oldest professional ballet company in the United States, was also the first company to mount *Nutcracker*, with choreography by Lew Christensen. The production is resplendent with seasonal and historical detail, with children cast in all of the children's roles, and in fact, the glory of S.F.B.'s Act One is in the children's parts. I realized while watching Jerome Robbins' *Circus Polka* last spring, how splendidly trained and rehearsed are the children in the San Francisco Ballet School. In *Nutcracker* their acting is extraordinary. How comfortable and natural these children are on stage — one can only wish that the adults in the company were as adept in their first act mime roles. Young Asya

Verzhbinsky, in the role of Clara, fully exemplified those qualities, and Sean Pritchard, who was cast last year as a soloist in Michael Smuin's *Stravinsky Piano Pieces*, already embodies so fully the earmarks of a future danseur that one seems able to visualize the career that lies ahead for him. Act Two gave us nice corps dancing throughout, with a few effective soloist performances: Eda Holmes and Attila Ficzere sensual and exotic in the "Arabian Coffee" variation, Zoltan Peter giving a buoyant "Ribbon Candy Dancer," and Nancy Dickson sharp and clean, as usual, as the "Rose" soloist. The physical production is quite beautiful, the most dramatic invention being a pair of forest-painted scrims in continuous countermovement across the



Erin Leedom — all RIGHT, girl — a ravishing dancer of elan and courage is seen here as the Sugar Plum Fairy with her cavalier, Lance James, in the Oakland Ballet's *NUTCRACKER*.

stage during the journey of Clara and the young Prince through the Land of Snow. The two lead couples, The Snow King and Queen, and Sugarplum and her Cavalier, left much to be desired. Alexander Topciy and Tracy-Kai Maier, in the former roles, are two of my favorite dancers in the company, and it was sad to see them looking so tired and underrehearsed (Alex neglected even to take a final bow at the end of the ballet, leaving Tracy-Kai to represent them alone). Betsy Erickson (Sugarplum) looked fairly secure in her solo variations, but her Grand Pas de Deux with Paul Russell was a mutual struggle from start to finish.

Oakland Ballet opened to a half-filled house, a shame because theirs

is also a very nice *Nutcracker*. The first act Christmas party is scaled down to the immediate family, and the children's roles were danced by younger, shorter adult dancers. The set design is more Disney-esque than European, rendered in ice cream colors, with nothing like the physical grandeur seen in San Francisco. The corps dancing lacked the precision and polish of S.F.B., but the soloists gave infinitely superior performances, with greater energy and enthusiasm from the men, and in pas de deux, easy and secure double work.

Several of the girls are complete divas, beginning with beautiful Julie Lowe as Snow Queen, partnered by Mario Alonzo in their several duets. Shirlee Reeve (another beauty) and hunky David Blood, gave an "Arabian Coffee" duet that is perhaps even more sensual than Christensen's at S.F.B. (Ron Guidi choreographed Reeve's variation on pointe, where S.F.B.'s Eda Holmes

does it in a barefoot sandal, which is more typical of that particular duet). Joy Gim and Jon Konetski, as the Rose Queen and Cavalier, are handsome young dancers, with, apparently, their own devoted audience following. Erin Leedom was a ravishing Sugarplum, dancing with an elan and courage that cannot be seen on this side of the Bay. She has an extra reserve of nerve and seems to take spontaneous risks: during a series of sixteen fouette turns, she realized after the first eight how well they were going and began throwing in doubles, forcing me to vocalize my admiration ("all right girl!") to the surprise of nearby spectators. Her partner was Ron Thiele, not a virtuoso technician but a fine partner, tall, with a strong, elegantly proportioned body. The Oakland girls don't seem to need much help from their partners — or it may be that the couples work so well together that one doesn't notice the effort. At S.F.B., the girls appeared to need all the help they could get in pas de deux — and they got very little. Oakland's male dancers are a varied collection, but both of the young male soloists, Gregory Gonzales and Richard Chen See, danced with a fresh energy and joy that enriched their roles.

For any readers who require an extra booster of Christmas spirit (and for those who have retained their childhood enthusiasm), I encourage a visit to a *Nutcracker* during the holidays. I enjoyed them both.

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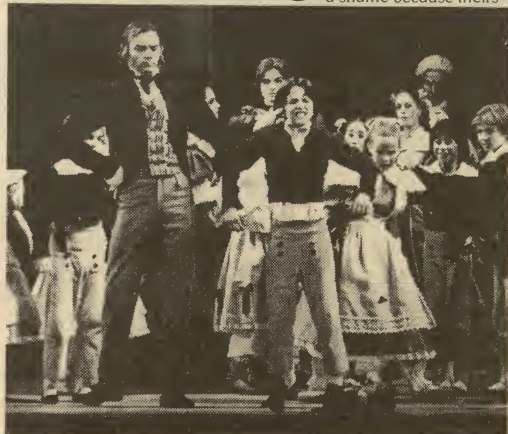
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"You can't go to the Boat Camp until you apologize for breaking the *Nutcracker*," admonishes Herr Drosselmeyer while the talented children of the S.F. Ballet look on.

FILM CLIPS

Tootsie

Dustin, Dustina

by Michael Lasky

Whether Dustin Hoffman knows it or not his portrayal of a female soap opera star in *Tootsie* will advance the ac-

This is not a mere *Some Like It Hoffman*, though. Dustin actually goes beyond mere masquerade — he gets into a woman's psyche. The humane humor stems from his struggles with woman's clothes and makeup, and the quick changes of each required when switching from



Charles Durning is smitten with *TOOTSIE*, and his marriage proposal almost makes Dustin Hoffman flip his wig.

ceptance of transvestism 20 years. His convincing deception is not only a giddy, glorious surprise, but a textbook example that all drag queens should follow.

Hoffman plays an unemployed New York actor with a reputation for being difficult. When his agent — played with relish by the film's director, Sydney Pollack — tells him that no one will work with him, Hoffman jettisons his identity. He becomes Dorothy Michaels and immediately lands a juicy part on a TV soap peopled with a motley assortment of characters who constantly test his mettle.

Of course he falls in love with Jessica Lange, the soap's curvaceous star, and in much the same way Tony Curtis wooed Marilyn Monroe in *Some Like It Hot*. Hoffman makes high comedy while maintaining his difficult sex change.

Lange mistakes that look in his eye for Lesbianism. Her father (Charles Durning) sees it as flirtation. Hoffman's girlfriend Teri Garr thinks he might be Gay. And roommate Bill Murray thinks it's kinky.

one sex to another. No ridicule is directed toward the woman he plays and, as he eventually says, the woman "is the best part of me."

This is not a Gay angled film — although the subject is always just under the surface — but a film that Gays will identify with and enjoy because of the comments it makes about how screwy sexuality can be among men and women and other combinations thereof.

Clever screenwriters Larry (M*A*S*H) Gelbart and Murray (LUV) Schisgal together with director Pollack never miss a beat. There is an accurate, affectionate homage to actors, a deft satire on soaps, and a winning romantic comedy that keeps a smile on our faces from start to finish.

Tootsie, however, belongs to Hoffman (despite the sharp performances by the supporting cast) for he imbues the animated anima/animus role with freshness that is at once funny, elating and deliriously satisfying.

(Cinema 21)

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If you can't make that one, catch Sharon at Trinity Place's cocktail hour shows from 5:30 to 8:30, Monday, December 27, through Thursday 30. No champagne here, but the cover is only \$3.

The Disney Liberation Movement

by Steve Warren

"I don't think you're gonna hear anybody say 'Fuck you' in a Disney movie in our lifetime," admits Dick Delson, director of publicity, motion pictures and television, for Walt Disney Productions. Nevertheless, the "Disney Liberation Movement" has been in progress for some time. But until the release of *Tex*, nobody noticed.

"What we need (to change our image)," Delson says, "is one breakout movie that will gross \$100,000,000. We thought *Tron* would do it, but it didn't.

What Delson calls "a re-education process" is being helped along gradually by projects like *Tex*, which deals with real problems of today's teenagers. It acknowledges that young people actually drink beer, take drugs, and have sex; and even if it does not show them doing these things, that's a long way from *Bambi*!

Tex: I'm part horse by birth.

Jamie (his girlfriend): I know which part, too.

Gays are going to see *Tex*, many of them attracted by handsome Matt Dillon, who plays the title role. Director Hunter says "Matt enjoyed learning to ride a horse for this part," but he thinks the 18-year-old actor "probably sees himself more on a city street than a country lane."

Although Hunter enjoyed working with *Tex* author S.E. Hinton, he expresses no bitterness that Francis Ford Coppola is filming her other books: "I'm gonna be first in line to see both of them. I'm especially excited about *Rumblefish* because that's a damn good story and it's liable to be an unusual movie."

Just a few years ago a Disney director wouldn't have dared to say "damn" in front of the press; nor would the Gay press have been invited to interview him.

Among his future film projects, Hunter reveals, "I'm working with a Gay novelist, Carter Wilson, on a script from one of his novels, *Treasures on Earth*. It doesn't have a Gay theme — it's an incendiary thriller."

A bit of research in the library unearths the book, and it certainly does have a Gay theme. It's set against the background of the 1911 archeological expedition that uncovered the lost Peruvian city of Machu Picchu, but the real story is about a photographer who gets in touch with his Gay feelings when he falls in love with a Peruvian man. Author Wilson teaches at the University of Santa Cruz, where Hunter once taught and where he met his frequent collaborator Charlie Haas.

Tex is making people rediscover Disney the way Fred MacMurray once discovered "Flubber." It's the beginning of the "re-education process" Dick Delson is working toward, but what the Disney Liberation Movement really needs is a slogan. "Black is Beautiful" and "Gay is Good" worked pretty well in their day.

How about "Disney is Dirty"? ■

Veronika Voss

Sunsetstrasse

by Steve Warren

"Light and shadow, the two secrets of film," says Veronika Voss, the faded movie star who describes herself as "a woman with a light and shadowy side" before asking a waiter to soften the lighting in the restaurant where she's trying out her old charm on a sportswriter she met by chance and has invited out to tea.

The line's not on a par with "We had faces then," but it says a lot about *Veronika*

German expressionism and forward to contemporary "new wave."

If Dietrich had played Norma Desmond in *Sunset Boulevard* it might have come off much like Rosel Zech's excellent portrayal of Voss. (The character is actually based on German actress Sybille Schmitz.) For a bit too much of the film she becomes peripheral to the story of the writer's investigation of the "Dr. Feelgood" (Annemarie Düringer) who has addicted Voss and others to morphine (and, it's hinted, may be the actress' lover as well). The doctor's scam, revealed too obliquely, is to get her



Rosel Zech plays the title role of a fading film star in Fassbinder's *VERONIKA VOSS*.

Voss, the next-to-last work of Gay filmmaker Rainer Werner Fassbinder. The plot has its light and shadowy aspects — you can waste a lot of time, for instance, worrying what the American soldier has to do with anything instead of just writing him off as "one of the bad guys" — and the extraordinary black and white photography takes the style of *film noir* (Compare during the current festival at the York and the one coming to the Castro) and extends it back to

wealthy patients to will her their estates.

Fassbinder shot the visually stunning *Veronika Voss* in only four weeks. Despite a less than perfect script it's a treasure for Gay film buffs.

Trivia: Don't get excited — the "Peter Berling" in the cast is no relation to our Peter Berling. This one's built more like Orson Welles... Listen for the German pronunciation of MGM: "Em-Gay-Em." ■

(Gateway)

☆☆☆☆ Go On — Believe! ☆☆☆☆



Peter Pan, the Walt Disney 1953 classic animated feature has returned for a run at the Cannery. At the height of his creative powers, Disney tried to envision how James M. Barrie might have told the original story if the art of animation had been at his disposal in 1904 when he wrote the play.

Barrie constantly tested the limits of stage illusion and it's his play directions and annotated scripts that gave the Disney artists many of their creative cues.

While the cartoon version of Never Never Land might not hold as strong a memory as the Mary Martin stage and TV rendition (who can forget Mary imploring anyone who believed in fairies to clap as hard as they could to save Tinker-belle?), Disney's cartoon has its own charms. The artwork alone is enough to seduce us. The Disney magic is classic, and its aura cannot be surpassed.

M.L. ■

FILM CLIPS



Still of the Night Full of 'Hitches'

Robert Benton directed *Kramer Vs. Kramer* and the delightful suspense romp *The Late Show*. With those credits it is particularly surprising to discover that his latest thriller has not one redeeming quality.

With blatant ripoffs from at least seven Hitchcock classics, *Still of the Night* displays none of the sophistication or stylish flair of its sources. While Hitchcock never cared about the credibility of his plots, they at least made sense. What Benton has done is to create nonsensical situations and idiotic character motivations that are difficult to identify with.

Not even the remarkable abilities of Roy Scheider and Meryl Streep can save the film. Their unsympathetic characters make this whodunit a who-cares-whodunit.

Scheider who normally plays aggressive types, is a sappy shrink whose philandering patient has been murdered. Streep, the victim's mistress, is suspected of being the slasher. But with her Veronica Lake coiffure and demure demeanor, she is too wimpy for us to believe she could carve a turkey, much less a human being.

The picture seems twice as long as its 90 minute length as it goes through the motions of stealing bits from *Vertigo*, *Saboteur*, *Marnie*, and *North by Northwest*. Brian DePalma has been known to "borrow" Hitchcock trademarks but at least has been true to the Master's intent. Benton plunders. As a result *Still of the Night* blunders. ■

(Northpoint) M.L.

Christmas Tears — What can you say about a 12-year-old girl who died? That money could buy her love, a congressional election and a chance to dance at Lincoln Center, but it couldn't buy life; and that she (Katherine Healy) vicariously enjoyed the affair between her mother (Mary Tyler Moore) and a married politician (Dudley Moore) for her last *Six Weeks*. This holiday tearjerker is more for fans of Dudley, who composed and performs a fine piano score besides giving a capable performance, than Mary, whose appeal is all in her checkbook. If you're just out for a good cry, you'll get it from *Six Weeks*. ■

(Alhambra)

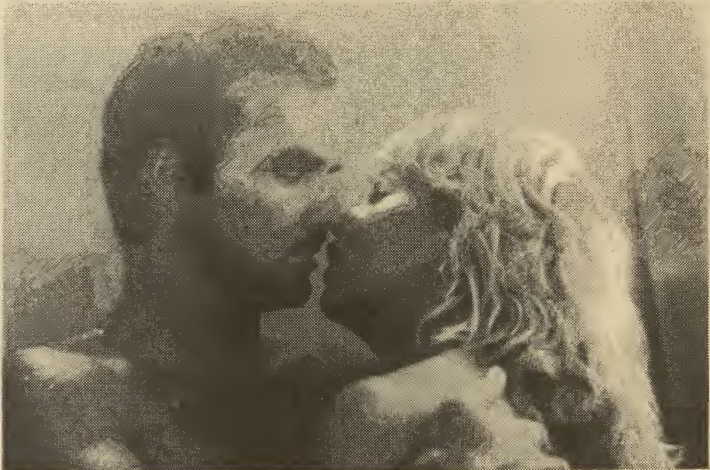
S.W.

DROPPINGS OF THE PINK PANTHER (or P.P. Caca) — Unwilling to let his golden goose die, Blake Edwards has laid an egg with *Trail of the Pink Panther*.

The credits are worth seeing — an animated opening sequence and a final collage of Peter Sellers' best moments as "Inspector Clouseau." What's inbetween is totally lame (no offense to the physically challenged intended) — new footage of supporting players stringing together outtakes (and a few intakes) of Sellers in bits that didn't work well enough for inclusion in the first five films of the series. It's an insult to our memories of the late star and the later-than-he-thinks director. ■

(Alexandria)

S.W.



STEAMY — Burt Reynolds and Goldie Hawn spend a lot of time in the shower in *Best Friends*, a movie so NICE it makes *Heidi's Song* look like *The Slumber Party Massacre*. It's good to see real chemistry between screen lovers again and fans of the stars won't be disappointed (even though Goldie never quite giggles). They play co-screenwriters (based on Valerie Curtin and Barry Levinson, who wrote this screenplay) who marry after three years of living together and spend a hellish honeymoon visiting their respective families. "If you love each other that's all that matters," this movie says — and believes. If you believe it too, you'll have a nice time at *Best Friends*. ■

(Coronet)

S.W.

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Respect Returned

PETER KEANE

"The marriage of the two (musical elements) — the electronic and the ethnic — is the most fruitful vein, to my ears, for people to work in." — Peter Gabriel.

The fact that Peter Gabriel can combine these two seemingly contradictory concepts — the snap, crackle, pop of state of the art synthetics coupled with decidedly non-western African, Burundi, and Third World rhythms — gives him a unique place in popular music. The fact that he can make this music intellectually stimulating as well, via his arresting (and sometimes frightening) lyrics, attests to his artistry in a genre too often devoid of it. And finally, the fact that he can make this eclectic brew theatrically effective

(and then some) is nothing short of amazing.

Gabriel's performance at the Civic Auditorium last Saturday was one of the year's eccentric pleasures. I've long had respect for the man's quirky genius. Even in his early days with the pomp-rock group Genesis, his theatricality and unerring performance instincts helped to salvage and humanize the band's sober, Artistic approach to music.

The show started with Gabriel and band walking



Peter Gabriel's eclectic merger of ethnic music types is his way of "directing powerful feelings."

through the crowd to take the stage, each beating out rhythms on a variety of drums. In a costume that made him look like a demented Lewis Carroll character, Gabriel performed mostly new material. The lyrical content of his songs encompassed such everyday themes as musical possession, pick-pocketing, African fertility rituals, Indian mescaline ceremonies, political assassinations, fetishist intruders (very erotic that one!), amnesia, and paeans to slain South Africans. Wired with a novel microphone that looked like Walkman headphones, he was free to romp, lurk and skulk about, acting out each of his songs. The word eccentric doesn't do him justice.

The capper of the evening was his performance of "Lay Your Hands on Me." This song has a peculiar evangelical tone, and as Gabriel chanted the refrain over and over, he descended into the audience imploring the audience to do just that. The risks implicit in that are overwhelming: the illusion of control can be easily shattered. I've seen it happen. For a moment, I thought the overzealous crowd would rip him to shreds. But instead, miraculously, he was hoisted above the mass and passed, hand-to-hand, back to the stage and put in an upright position. The trust and respect he has for his audience is quite amazing — no distant rock star he.

Peter Gabriel is the genuine article, make no mistake. Although he's not for everyone, the power of his left-of-center progressive music to effect a diverse crowd was moving. And though we tend to lose sight of it sometimes, isn't that what music is all about? ■

SPORTS NEWS

CORNER POCKET

The Winner Is ... The Loser

GENE MILLER

For a few seconds, Billy "The Kid" Kazee was the 1982 San Francisco Pool Association 9-Ball champion. He made a beautiful game-ending, tournament-winning cut to the side pocket to defeat Colin Bradley 3-2, but the cue ball took a three-rail route to the corner pocket and Colin became the champion sitting down.

The action took place at Park Bowl, December 4, as a field of 16 competed for \$440 in cash plus four trophies. It was the league's first tourney in Park Bowl's billiards room, and also the first to be sponsored by Budweiser. The company gave stylish souvenir shirts to all 16 finalists, and they'll also provide the trophies when the league presents its party and trophy at Trocadero Transfer January 11, 1983.

Kazee, at 21 the baby of the SFPA's 252-member Tuesday night league, became the center of attention after his third round 3-0 shut-out over Elliott Zalta, the league's #2 rated player. It was Bradley who sent him to the loser's bracket with a 3-2 victory, but his 3-1 decision over Frank McGuire earned him the right to again face Bradley, the league's top trophy winner, for the championship. There were still a few nonbelievers in the gallery as he and Colin squared off, but in a few minutes all were convinced: The kid can shoot — Billy had dealt a 3-0 loss to Colin.

This gave Colin his first loss, necessitating one more match for the title. The 5-game set was a perfect seesaw. Colin with the first and fifth victories.

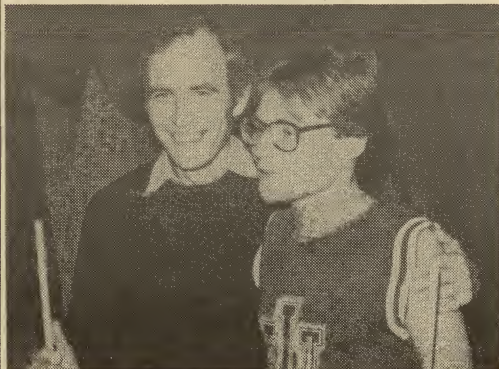
and enthusiasm commanded the crowd's attention. Completing a 5-ball run, he cut the 9 into the side for the win, nearly an impossible shot, but the cue ball made its rounds and Mr. Bradley, already the Gay World Champion (1st place - Gay Olympics 9-Ball), picked up \$175 and the trophy.

The stats: Bradley, 1st (15-10); Kazee, 2nd (19-10); Frank McGuire, 3rd (14-10); Wally Sutherland, 4th (14-10).

THE ALL-STAR

At the close of every season, the league's most prestigious tournament decides which four players will represent SF at the West Coast Challenge (LA, San Diego, SF). Also at stake are some fancy trophies ... and cash. This season's event was held December 18 at Park Bowl and saw Kitty Stephens rise to the top once again. She retains her championship from last season — the first player to do so — and will attempt an unprecedented repeat victory at the West Coast Challenge, January 14-16 in San Diego. Mike Merritt's 4th round win over Kitty sent her to the loser's bracket to face Peter Fleury. She got Peter 3-3 and came back to face Mike again. She could win only by defeating Mike twice, and that's just what she did, by scores of 3-2 and 3-1. Fleury was 3rd, and Tom DeGraffenreid 4th. All four will fly to San Diego for the Challenge, expenses paid by the SFPA.

Joining them will be Steve Runng, winner of the Class "A" tournament held December 19, also at Park Bowl.



Colin Bradley hugs Billy "The Kid" Kazee after Kazee's apparent 1st place victory over Bradley was erased with a scratch in the corner pocket. The event was the SFPA Annual 9-Ball Championship, held December 14. (Photo: Gene)

The final game was something to behold. Although Colin played like the champion he is, Billy's fast pace

The league's top 16 players qualify for the All-Star tournament, and all others are eligible for the Class "A" event. Runng won the tournament undefeated; 2nd place went to Don Henderson; 3rd, Tom Sipple; 4th, Mike Macri. ■

Frontrunners

The Frontrunners have a special Christmas Day Run planned, covering either 2 or 3.5 rolling miles. Runners should meet at McLaren Lodge in GG Park at 10 AM on December 25.

The usual Sunday Fun Run continues. On December 26 the run will be 2, 3 or 5.4 rolling miles of Sunset Boulevard, with a meeting in the parking lot at Sunset and Lake Merced Blvd at 10 AM. Info: 431-5534 or 285-1479.

Different Spokes

The Different Spokes bicycling club invites interested cyclists to meet at McLaren Lodge in GG Park at 10 AM on Sunday, December 26, where the group will decide on the destination of their weekly ride. ■

Merry Christmas

FROM



BAY AREA REPORTER BOB'S BAZAAR

BAY AREA REPORTER SUPPLEMENT X-RATED BAY AREA REPORTER SUPPLEMENT X-RATED BAY AREA REPORTER SUPPLEMENT X-RATED BAY AREA REPORTER SUPPLEMENT



MY KNIGHTS IN LEATHER

Five and Counting

KARL STEWART

A FULL KNIGHT

Reading a letter of commendation from the Board of Supervisors to the Trocadero's Dick Collier, Richard Hongisto stated, "Our fight against KS has a history of which you are a very important part. Tonight's extravaganza brings us one step closer to solving the terrible riddle of KS."

Riddle, yes. It has been both horrifying and mysterious.

Dick Collier did something about it last week too. Using his tremendous influence in the industry, the word "extravaganza" pales at what Richard pulled off. As David Miller of TOP25 said, "There are some old divas on this stage tonight right next to the young crazies." The performance list was staggering: MC Jaye P. Morgan, looking youthful in spaceage hair, make-up and clothes to match the brand new spaceship look of the Troc. The ever dynamic Fifth Dimension singing Fats Waller's "Ain't Misbehaving." Samantha Samuels and her wonderful Piaf, gracious Carol Lawrence. Maureen Murphy's fireworks. Claudja Barry and Gwen Jonae, the electric gospel of Linda Hopkins (still going strong), and Jeannie Tracy, hot, kind and invigorating Paul Parker, The Love Twins, my favorite Party Girl Taka Boom, the great harmony of Loverde, and to top it all off and make it a special sweet treat, the crazies from Beach Blanket Babylon. Now this was not, repeat, was not the guest list. These giants were all on the same stage, in the same evening together, and every one of them donated their time. If you can't believe it as you read it, the wild audience couldn't believe it as it happened. Because of difficulty in getting commitments this list wasn't available until the night before.

At his Fifth Anniversary last Tuesday Collier told me, "Every thing from airfares to

hotel rooms have been donated, so the entire proceeds of the door can go to the KS Foundation." City Hall's Fred Badalamente told me that the Board of Supervisors will send a letter of commendation similar to the one Collier received to each person who performed.

Cleve Jones, Britt and Walker have put together a \$375,000 package to be divided between the KS Foundation, Shanti Project, the AIDS Clinic at SF General and the Dept of Public

Health's Amoebiasis project. (There is strong evidence, I'm told, that KS can be transmitted. One thing that most or all AIDS and KS patients have in common is a history of Amoebiasis. You might have your MD check for you.)

Cleve said smiling, "It has the full support of the Mayor and Dr. Silverman, Director of the Dept. of Public Health.

I had the marvelous opportunity to chat with some of the stars that night. The one question I asked of each was what motivated them to donate their time to the KS Foundation and the Gay community. A very calm and charming Gwenn Jonae replied, "It's an organization and cause that deals with human resources. I really feel this is the very least I could do. I'm interested in contributing. I care and think more people should get in-

involved. I care about what happens to the people around me."

Taka Boom added, "Dick stole my gig. I wanted to do something like this as soon as I returned from recording in NYC. We'll do these over and over again 'til we get KS taken care of." She disclosed to me, "Recording on our album is almost done. It's produced by Bob Esty and will be released overseas first. I need to shop for a label next month in New York." Taka lamented, "You know Patrick Cowley and I were talking about doing something together when he died."

Grand pro Linda Hopkins chatted with J.P. Morgan. "It's terrible, all these folks dying. I care because all my children are Gay, the whole world is Gay, but don't know it." Ms Hopkins was celebrating her 58th birthday that



Cartoon by Denis Morella

evening!

Ms Morgan added, "I've had friends die from AIDS too. I wanted to do this."

Majestic Claudja Barry answered in soft, tender tones, "You know, the fact is this is a part of our industry and this effects our industry. I support and care about anything that will strengthen my industry. KS must be eliminated."

Hunky Paul Parker stated, "This really hits home, with Patrick Cowley dying and all. I wanted to contribute." He concluded "I have an album coming out February 14th that Patrick and I co-produced. It will be dedicated to him."

The 5th Dimensions: Florence LaRue, Joyce Wright and Michael Proctor sat off to the side being filmed by Channel 4 news. When they were finished we talked. Florence said, "It's not just for the Gay community. This effects the whole of society." Joyce added, "It's in the spirit of the holidays." Michael confessed, "This is our vacation time. We love helping out."

The most articulate of all was the beautiful Carol Lawrence who said emphatically, "I think that this is a very devastating, mysterious cancer. There really should not be any confusion about who it afflicts. It's a killer. It doesn't matter who it kills. It's a killer and I'm here to help alleviate it. And I'll continue to until we have some answers... and cures."

I think, I hope, she speaks for us all.

(Continued on next page)



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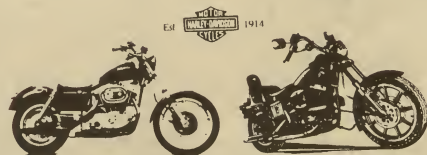
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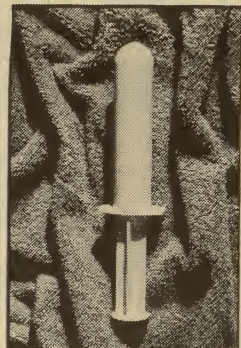
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ANIMALS

BATH HOUSE



Members of the CMC present a check to Bob Ross, KS Foundation treasurer. The funds were raised by the CMC Carnival. (Photo: Rink)

Karl's Calendar

Wednesday 12/22. Kissinger's Birthday. (Febe's Owner) Febe's, 9 PM.
BC's Joe and Vinnie 5th Anniversary. The Starlight Room, 7-10 PM.

All Candidate Night. SoM Emperor and Empress candidates at the Oasis, 7:30 PM and the SF Eagle, 8 PM.

Religious Art. The Stables. Reception 8-11 PM.

Thursday 12/23. Oil Paintings. Dick Wheeler, The Ambush, 5:30-8 PM.

Hothouse Members Party. 8 PM.

Saturday 12/25. Animals Christmas. No membership, locker free to members, 9 PM.

Hothouse Christmas. No membership 9 PM.

Christmas Party. Ramrod, 2 PM DJ-Ernie.

Celebration, the birthdays of Jesus, John Ponyman & Jim Levin, 10 PM, the Caldron.

Sunday, 12/26. BB Birthday. Febe's, 9 P.M.

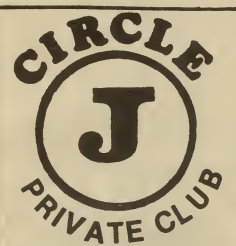
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KNIGHTS

(Continued from previous page)

KNIGHT LIGHT, KNIGHT BRIGHT

Some outstanding fun has been happening about the Hollow and on the hill. The Detour attracted a hot crowd of Castro Toughs and Leathermen alike. What a stunning group! It's funny, maybe because no one knows me there, but I've never left the Detour without a trick — and the pick of the Detour are always gorgeous. Iip and the Garys with burly David all played Santa behind the bar. Gary and Dan set up the bar for 2 1/2 solid hours, "just to say thanks," as Danny put it.

Moving even higher. Leather stud Doug Stevens of City Athletic had a smart soiree in his upper Market perch.

The BC's laid out a lovely traditional Christmas feed for members and friends at GD Kitty's place. My word, the Club is like the early court days when the entire community played together. With a currently reigning GD, the pair of Vinnie and Roger (just past Grand Duke and Duchess), Royal, who is running for Emperor this year... etc. etc. etc. A delicate line, I see, between uniting our two communities again and bringing the antiquated court system up to date; or, on the other hand, using the club system to promote personal ends. Careful girls.

Bob, Steve and Terry mounted a spectacular party for their employees and friends at Steve's Designers Showcase. How did they get only the gorgeous and powerful to come? What a party!

The Stables celebrated Christmas last Friday in their inimitable fashion. With everything from leathermen like huge Jim and fleet, sure-footed Claude, Club Folks like Matt Band and John B. joined the merriment with the Sisters romping through. Fred Linde of the Rainbow Deaf Society (which will soon celebrate their 10th year) tells me he will have a show at the Stables on 12/29. Stop in and meet this remarkable man between 8 and 11 PM, at that opening.

It is rumored that Ray of the Men's Room and Rich of Phoenix are getting thick. Who knows where this will lead.

More Tales of the River Rats: Sleazy Fred of the Woods has moved here. When not in a tub in the Caldron he can be found on Castro shining shoes at the bench next to All American Boy... Max has canoed back to the City from RR Lodge and is looking for a place to dock... Glen Bob is at the Stud.

Michael Hopper was honored at the Men's Room in his bid for Emperor by Ken and Edie Singleton-Player. The only thing that outshone Michael was humpy John of San Bruno... oooo, what a beauty.

Sweet? Joe T. of Venus Nuts and Candy in Castro Mall celebrated his birthday at Febe's as Skip and Walt chalked up 5 big ones. Skipper dragged the entire Tap Troupe over from the show to celebrate.

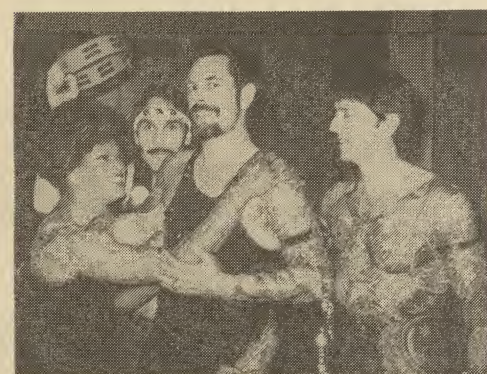
Thanks again to Paul Estes and Steve Grosvenor for the wonderful party and food and fund raiser at Alfie's. The seniors love ya for it. ■

Karl Stewart

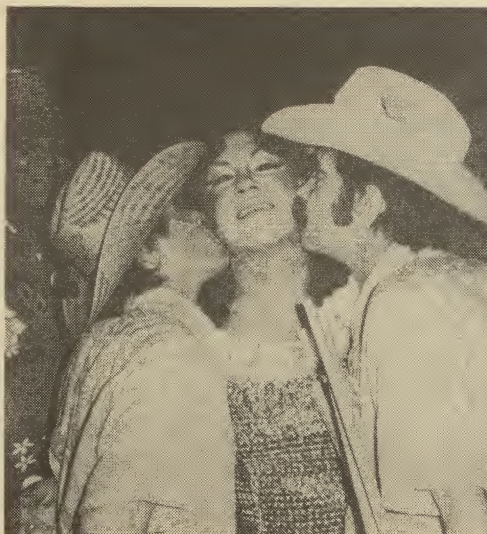
They Wanna Be Royal



Candidate for Emperor "Royal" at the Presentation of Candidates — he seems to be running on the "You're a Grand Old Flag . . . er, Flag" platform. (Photo: Rink)



Emperor candidate Jim (center) is surrounded by friends and fans at his presentation. (Photo: Rink)



Dee Dee Love was one of three Empress candidates. She received some homage at her presentation ceremony. (Photo: Rink)



The presentation of candidates for Royal office was attended by other notables: GSL Commissioner Bob Docca (left), Emperor candidate Tom Vin-deed, and Assistant GSL Commissioner Art Jackson. (Photo: Rink)

SWEETLIPS SEZ

Fingers on the Help

DICK WALTERS

Coronation Together on Saturday, January 8, at the Kabuki Theatre will have Czar Randy Johnson and Queen Mother Lee "Greta" Grass as MC's . . . This is the first time that the Emperor and Empress will be crowned together.

The White Swallow certainly has a very festive look . . . Russ and Jim, you have done a great job on the Christmas decorations. You were very festive on Saturday, Lynn; I'm sorry that I couldn't have spent more time with you.

Have you seen the hunk

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

FROM

Sweet Lips

that Marvin Warren has working at the Q.T. II? His name is Dan and he sure is easy to look at. He's also a very personable bartender . . . isn't that right, Leroy?

Headlines has one of the largest arrays of gifts that I have seen around this town . . . I could put my finger on about a hundred things that I would like, including some of the help. Visit them for your last minute gifts.

There is a real sickie who constantly phones me at work and home at all hours of the

tence. Yes, there are steps being taken to remedy this. Maybe you should go to Operation Concern for some mental help. I was one of the four original founders of this organization, and it can help you.

Sharon McNight will be at the Plush Room in the York Hotel on New Year's Eve, and if you want to have a

blast buy your tickets now. She is one of our most popular entertainers.

I wish again to thank you all for my auction and birthday party which has so far raised \$4,600 for the Kaposi's Sarcoma Foundation . . . remember, you can still give them a tax-deductible donation as a Christmas present . . . wouldn't that be nice?

In closing I would like to say from Ed Scott, Jessie Shin, Al Carpenter, Allen Scott and yours truly from the Hob Nob a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year. Will see you all around the holidays and the coming year just about everywhere. Love each and every one of you! ■
Sweet Lips

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PORN CORNER

A Day Near Hollywood A Night On Your Crane

William Higgins is constantly reaching higher levels. The set-up and premise of his newest film, **Malibu Days**, **Big Bear Nights**, is positively arty. You get two, count them, two films in one, as **A Day in Malibu** is a film which the characters in **Big Bear Nights** watch. Oh joy! Layers of reality in bubblegum porn. Not only that, but the lengthy opening sequence depicts the cast arriving like the "gathering of the clan" sequence in a godfather movie. I expect one of these days Higgins will get so cerebral he'll film a porno **Three Sisters** (Irina, weeping: We must get to Orgasm! To orgasm... to orgasm.).

Fortunately, despite the elaborate (and overly time-consuming) exposition, **MD, BBN** is hardly cerebral. It's an in-seam buster of some potency. Actually, I was surprised to like the film. Magazines of its key scenes weren't the hottest I'd seen, and magazines are usually better than their film sources. These college freshman type boys seemed young, inexperienced, and soft on still photos. But how different on film! They get progressively aggressive and quite sexually practiced as their dicks harden. So the movie was another bag of chicken altogether, two hours (minus the exposition) of solid sex, continually arousing. I saw the movie on video cassette, the excellent product of Catalina Video, with sharp color and sound. Two hours is more than I can take; in a theatre I would have been unconscious by the

end. At home we took a break to work the stiffness out. Ah, the pleasures of video!

Against typical, frequently irritating shopping-mall disco, **Big Bear Nights** opens with various high school friends meeting and driving to a mountain cabin for a weekend holiday. This is not only exposition, but comic relief as well. The acting is pitiful, as they portray "regular guys horsing around." One pair does insipid calisthenics, calling it a workout. This allows the camera to peer at their baskets and buns, but it's silly, poorly done, and old hat. Maybe Higgins thinks this is foreplay for our eyes. It felt like padding to me, and I was relieved when one of the guys finds a video cassette in the cabin. They all hope it's porno. So did I. Another surprising bit of scriptwriting from Mr. Higgins: it is porno!

They slip it in the machine, and settle back to watch **Malibu Days**. After a moment, one of them makes a discovery. "This is all guys, man!" But it's all they've got. Being young and flexible (and also very horny), they adjust. "Well, I'll watch it if you guys wanna watch." Watch we do.

At last, I thought, The Porno. But no, first there's some endless shots of debuting star Mark Scott Solo surfing. He and his buddy, the feisty and butch cutie Brad Scott, go to J. W. King's house to wax the floors. They all know that's a pretense, however, for a three-way. The scene boggled my mind,

for they maintained this charade throughout the entire sexcapades which follow. Badly acted, of course, but amazingly consistent. King must punish them for screwing around on the job, and the punishment becomes a (nonkinky) ritual straight out of pulp paperback porno. Scott, a grown man, finds himself across King's knee for a spanking, and Solo nearly pushes him aside for his turn. Solo positively sings his faked pain at the paddling.

Soon the boys are groping King, and the scene becomes an homage to his cock. I'll lick to that. Beautifully filmed, it's the pinnacle for anybody who has ever dreamt of sucking off this regal Prince of Porno. Scott and Solo seem to be worshipping at a shrine, and the camera work puts everything in well-lighted view. Especially effective is the vision of both boys sliding their lips up and down opposite sides of the King's scepter. It may have taken Higgins a while to get to it, but once in the groove, he stays there.

King is in delirium, his face and vocalizations venting his deep sexuality. Some indelicate cutting jumps us to a fucking scene, but it's a good scene. Scott says to King, "Try not to hurt him," and I realized he was still doing the charade about the floor waxers. Such acting! The sort Lee Strasberg taught at the Studio! Solo seems to be resisting the fuck King delivers, and in doing so acts for the first time without even knowing it!

King pumps to orgasm strictly in rhythm with the soundtrack music. It's a visual version of the Bolero; it sure is beautiful.

The next scene on the video of **Malibu Days** features Solo and friends. He's a little too adorable, and is covered with a layer or two of



The boys of Big Bear. Tough and chunky Joel Allen and cocky, dirty-talker Adam Stewart (front, l. to r.) made arousing debuts in Higgins' new film. Their able partners (rear) are Kurt Franklin and Alan Howell.

type. How wrong I found I was — this sort of joy in sex makes any type enjoyable.

Like the June Taylor Dancers, the boys slither to the floor into a hungry daisy chain for some cocksucking which leads to fucking. There follows a lazy susan montage of several couples jacking off, sucking, fucking, kissing. The bodies are young and nice, the participants eager, and their sensations unusually well telegraphed by the camera. My cock got the message. There's an award winning JO by a boy getting fucked, and some expert work from Jaime Wingo, followed by a strong, flying orgasm.

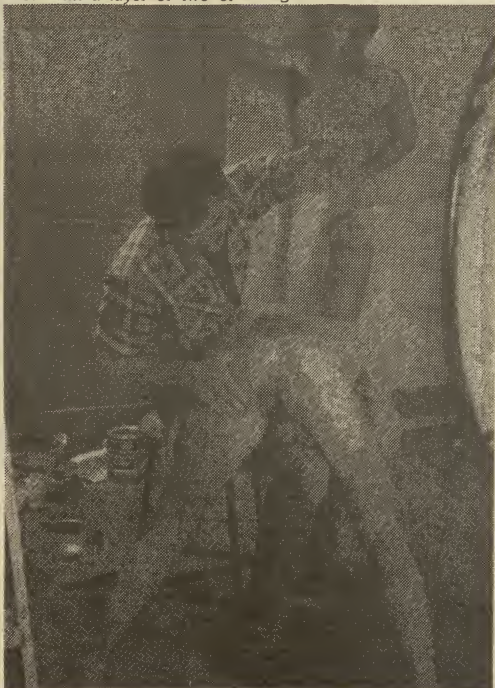
butch a bottom can be. After a mutual JO they kiss and hug, as do all the couples in this positive, personal film.

There's still another scene in **Malibu Days**, with a shaggy-haired boy with features so soft he looks like a 12-year old girl. His partner is dark and sexy and bears another top-prize, Higgins-found-it cock. Cock reigns in this film; even fucking is felt from the cock's point of view. This lover causes the girlish boy to shoot a wicked gusher before jacking off his own thick girder of a cock, cumming and cumming.

Then there's a scene in a hot tub. I thought it would be a seventh inning stretch scene before the finale, but it's yet another effective production number. In any other movie we'd be thankful for one of these scenes. In a Higgins movie we take for granted the quality of each scene. These two are hot, one resembling Richard Gere — but butcher.

I had long since gone into a trance when the film within the film ended. It's followed by the grand finale, in which all the horny boys in the Big Bear cabin practice what they have seen on the screen. Adam Clayton makes an impressive debut. He's got Deborah Kerr's hair, the skin of a cherub, a big dick and abundant sexuality. He makes horny sex talk, and the ensuing orgy is so entertaining I didn't even mind the stupid subplot that these guys were supposed to be straight. The rapt, worshipful quality of earlier scenes is gone, and these boys work out, unable to hold back. They suck and fuck intensely, cum as if possessed, and have obviously learned a lot from watching that video cassette. Quick learners, all.

This excellent marathon of lust is followed on the Catalina Video cassette by a bonus, a Mark Solo solo. You won't see it at Savages, where **MD, BBN** is playing for two weeks. After previewing the film there, you can purchase the cassette from Catalina Video, 256 S. Robertson Blvd., Beverly Hills, CA 90211. It'll be an esteemed, frequently viewed, addition to your home collection of videos. The individual magazines are available at Le Salon on Polk Street.



The scene that bent Karr's mind while it straightened his cock — the ritual punishment charade. Jim King punishes his boys by treating them both good and bad.

baby fat. Peeled out of his wet suit, though, his body oozes youth. As he's turned on he displays a mischievously direct personality. Solo and friends may be lousy actors, but they show an absolute adoration of sex when they make out, a rapt intensity. This rare quality goes way beyond acting and makes the boys entrancing. I had thought they weren't my

The third scene of **Malibu Days** features mature stars Giorgio Canali and Nick Rogers. Rogers is so low — he spits on Canali's cock, slurps over it, sucks it deep. He could probably induce orgasm in a viewer by sucking a doorknob. In Canali, he has a subject worthy of his sucklickation. He talks dirty, and becomes an aggressive bottom for Canali, showing just how

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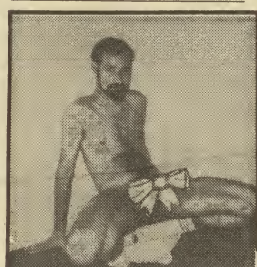
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